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A young West German couple talk to an East German border guard through a hole in the Berlin Wall near the Heinrich-Heine-Strasse crossing. (Reuter wirephoto)

E. Germany holds polls

Step toward unity

EAST-BERLIN, March 17. (Reuters) East Germany stages Eastern Europe's first free election in 40 years tomorrow, a giant step toward unity with West Germany after Stalinist rule ended last year.

The virtual hijacking of the campaign by West German political leaders playing on voters' desperate desire for economic salvation disturbed some East Germans.

But they still thrilled at the prospect of choosing among distinct parties — 24 ranging from the Marxist-Leninist left to the capitalist right — for the first time in their lives.

"The first day of school. The first kiss. The first love. The first salary. The first child. And so on. Now, the first election. The first free one. Secret and equal," the youth newspaper Junge Welt enthused today.

Almost 600 rallies and demonstrations drawing more than 1.2 million people — a tenth of the electorate — saturated the country in the final two weeks before the elections, the official news agency ADN said.

It was a barometer of the election fever gripping a country where previous voting exercises — for one slate of communists and small-party minions — elicited only yawns from all but a minority of Stalinist true believers. (See Page 4)

Libya blames saboteurs

Fire at Rabta

CAIRO, March 17. (Agencies) Libya today blamed foreign intelligence agents for a fire at a chemical plant in Rabta, which the United States and West Germany said was producing mustard and nerve gases.

Although it did not accuse them directly, Libya suggested the United States and Israel had the most to gain from the fire at the Rabta chemical plant 40 miles (65 km) south of the Libyan capital Tripoli, which Arab diplomatic sources said had left it a smoldering rubble.

President Bush said today he did not know for certain whether an accident or sabotage was responsible for the fire at Rabta. But US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said yesterday he suspected Libyan incompetency may have been to blame.

"The state-owned Libyan news agency Jana quoted a source at the people's foreign liaison and international co-operation bureau, or Foreign Ministry, as confirming that Rabta had been subjected to, 'a terrorist sabotage operation.'"

The huge fire was "a manifestation of organized state terrorism, carried out by hostile intelligence apparatuses," Jana, quoted the Libyan source as saying.

Earlier, Arab diplomatic sources in Algiers said a commando team that travelled to Libya from neighbouring Tunisia set the fire. The saboteurs were disguised as tourists, the sources said.

Vilification campaign uncalled for

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
 Editor-in-Chief

MANAMA, March 17. Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa has described the current campaign against Iraq as "uncalled for, unreasoned and an interference into Iraq's internal affairs."

He told the Editor-in-Chief of Arab Times Ahmad Jarallah, that it's the right of Iraq to safeguard its national security and take decisive measures against all those who attempt to violate it, particularly those who are proved to have been dealing with foreign spies.

The Prime Minister of Bahrain added that the history of the recently executed spy Farzad Bazoft, in Iraq is not clean which is evident from the reports about him in the British newspapers themselves.

Sheikh Khalifa said that Iraq executed the spy according to its own laws, which can be applied to both Iraqis as well as foreign nationals.

"For this reason, Iraq shouldn't have been the target of an unjust campaign just because of applying its own laws," Sheikh Khalifa stressed. He added that the capital punishment is applied in many countries not only for spying but also for other crimes like drugs for example.

He said that the current campaign against Iraq revives our demands on the need to have balanced Arab relations that would make the whole world feel that Arabs have unified positions in which any harm or damage inflicted on any Arab country should be considered as directed to all Arab countries.

"This should ultimately lead to a unified Arab reaction which the whole world would feel and realise its true weight and influence," he said.

Sheikh Khalifa emphasised that Arab countries do not wish to create enmities with other countries in the world. "Arab countries on the contrary are willing to establish fraternal relations with other countries," he said. "These Arab countries do not wish to see relations between Iraq and Britain deteriorate but want good relations."

But Sheikh Khalifa stressed that other countries in the world should respect the internal affairs of Arab countries. He said "We as Arabs should understand Iraq's position. Iraq has full right to protect its internal front against any dangers of foreign interference."

Sheikh Khalifa called upon Arab countries to stand solidly behind Iraq, because these same Arab countries may face similar events like Iraq in the future.

Condemned

MUSCAT, March 17. (Reuters) Gulf Arab and European Economic Community foreign ministers from Britain, France and Ireland today condemned Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"EEC and GCC ministers deplored the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem," a communique issued after a one-day meeting said.

They condemned Israel's violent repression of Palestinian protests, and said they must give more aid to Arabs living in the occupied areas.

Iraqis protest

Saddam dashes to Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, March 17. (Agencies) Iraqi President Saddam Hussein made a surprise visit to Saudi Arabia today at the invitation of King Fahd following the uproar over Iraq executing a British-based journalist on spying charges.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Iraqi protestors marched in Baghdad and other cities to express anger at the British measures.

Saddam's visit was announced by the official Saudi Press Agency which said the Iraqi president arrived at the northeastern town of Hafir Al Baten at the invitation of the Saudi monarch.

The agency gave details of the airport reception ceremony led by Fahd but it did not comment on the purpose of the visit. Fahd has spent several weeks at Hafir Al Baten, base for a fledgling Gulf Rapid Deployment Force.

Saddam was accompanied by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hamadi and Laif Nassayif Jasim, minister of information and culture.

Diplomatic sources in the Gulf said, that Saudi and other Gulf foreign ministers meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and other European Economic Community ministers on trade issues in Oman were pressing for restraint from London.

Jordan's King Hussein expressed astonishment at the dimension of the international protest and warned that this might be part of a plot to pave the way for an attack on Iraq, viewing its strong military potential in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Amman, the English-language Jordan Times said the king had interceded with Saddam to commute the death sentence on Bazoft.

Saddam's visit came as tens of thousands of Iraqis took to the streets in all major cities to denounce UK for withdrawing its ambassador, expelling six Iraqi military students and cancelling all military visits.

The Iraqis besieged the British embassy compound in downtown Baghdad today to protest Britain's denunciation of Bazoft execution.

The appeal, addressed to "the governments of democratic nations," said the March 11 independence declaration "expressed the will of the nation by proclaiming the legal continuation of the independent Lithuanian state" existing before 1940.

Speaking to the republic's parliament in the capital Vilnius, Landsbergis rejected proposals by Gorbachev that a referendum be staged to establish whether the Lithuanian people wanted to break away from the Soviet state.

"Rather than holding a referendum, we have other things to do. And then if we got involved in a decision, we would be making a political mistake, as if we were admitting that the will of the people had not yet been expressed," he said.

The session, held a day after Gorbachev delivered his ultimatum to Landsbergis and a week after Lithuania declared independence, was broadcast on Radio Vilnius and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London.

Latvia and Estonia, the two other once-independent Baltic republics incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, meanwhile prepared for elections on Sunday that could also put them firmly on a breakaway course.

While across the Russian federation, the country's largest republic, voters take part in a second round ballot that could provide a fresh headache for the Kremlin chief by putting radicals in control of major cities.

In Vilnius, economist and senior Communist Party member Kazimira Prunskiene was chosen as the republic's new prime minister by the parliament, with the support of most Sajudis deputies as well as communist representatives.



Two killed in clash

Police opened fire on Saturday when Hindus and Muslims clashed in New Delhi, killing at least two people and wounding 25, police and news reports said.

The trouble began when residents of a predominantly Muslim neighbourhood objected to a group of Hindus trying to extend the boundary of their cremation ground, a police spokesman said on condition of not being identified.

The agreement turned into a clash, which was broken up by the police. But minutes later a mob looted and pelted stones at police, who retaliated by opening fire. It was not clear if the mob was Muslims, Hindus or both.

United News of India said an 11-year-old Muslim boy, Mohammed Hanif, and an unidentified person were killed. The boy had bullet injuries in the neck, UNI said.

Parents sit beside the body of Mohammed Hanif. (Reuter wirephoto)

Plain John or a spy — doubts cast

LONDON, March 17. (Reuters) Two leading British espionage experts, one of them a Member of Parliament, have suggested that Farzad Bazoft, a London-based journalist executed by Iraq as a spy this week, might have been working for Israel or Britain.

But the British government, friends and former colleagues on the Observer weekly newspaper, insisted he was just a reporter.

Rupert Allason, an espionage writer and parliamentarian, said on Friday that Bazoft, on assignment in Iraq, "had probably heard about something that might be spicy for the Israelis, went to do his bit and got caught."

"We know now that Bazoft offered himself four times to the British police in recent months as an informant. It would be highly likely he would offer himself to the Israelis."

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who has rejected Iraq's spying charge, said in parliament on Thursday that Bazoft had offered information to London police four times between 1987 and 1989 but neither Hurd nor the police elaborated.

Allason's comments followed official confirmation on Friday that the 31-year-old Iranian exile, who was hanged in Baghdad on Thursday after being convicted of spying for Israel, had served a year in prison in 1981 for bombing a savings bank.

Shortly before his execution, Bazoft told a British official he was innocent. The case has soured relations between Iraq and Britain and the British ambassador was recalled in protest.

Michael Mifsud, a friend of Bazoft, said in a television interview that disclosure of his murky past seemed aimed at diverting any criticism that the British government had not taken a tougher line against Iraq.



Huge crowd of Iraqis protest outside the British embassy in Baghdad in a show of official anger at Britain's condemnation of the execution of Bazoft.

Singh may ride out Devi storm

By Thomas Abraham
 Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 17. Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal's abrupt resignation from the cabinet last evening has come as a big jolt to the three-and-a-half month old government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, plunging it into its first major crisis.

But the storm is likely to blow over, government and party officials said today.

Devi Lal's resignation has revealed a rift in Singh's minority government, analysts said.

But a spokesman for Devi Lal's Janata Dal said he was confident that the deputy prime minister could be persuaded to reconsider his decision.

Singh was huddled late last night with many of his senior colleagues, including ministers Madhu Danavate, Ajit Singh, Arun Nehru, Sharad Yadav and Gujarat Chief Minister Chimanbhai Patel, to discuss the sudden development.

No details of what transpired during the late-night meeting were available, though it looked like serious efforts would be made to dissuade Devi Lal from pressing his resignation. Many party leaders met Devi Lal today in this regard.

Soon after the news of the resignation broke, more than a hundred journalists crowded outside Devi Lal's residence. Devi Lal did not come out to meet them for a long time, despite repeated requests, ultimately, he made a brief appearance to confirm that he had quit office without giving any reason for the drastic action.

Devi Lal, however, said he continued to be a member of the Janata Dal, the main constituent of the five-party National Front. It was also not immediately clear if he had resigned as the chairman of the Janata Dal's parliamentary board.

Informed sources said Devi Lal decided to quit in protest against the alleged "campaign of vilification" launched against him and the members of his family, including his son and Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, and senior party

(Continued on Page 2)

Lithuania asks for help

MOSCOW, March 17. (Reuters) Lithuania, facing a Kremlin ultimatum to pull back from its declaration of independence, today formed a new government and appealed for its recognition from democratic states across the world.

The Baltic republic's parliament issued the appeal signed by President Vytautas Landsbergis hours after Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave Lithuania three days to renounce its drive to break out of the Soviet Union.

The appeal, addressed to "the governments of democratic nations," said the March 11 independence declaration "expressed the will of the nation by proclaiming the legal continuation of the independent Lithuanian state" existing before 1940.

Speaking to the republic's parliament in the capital Vilnius, Landsbergis rejected proposals by Gorbachev that a referendum be staged to establish whether the Lithuanian people wanted to break away from the Soviet state.

"Rather than holding a referendum, we have other things to do. And then if we got involved in a decision, we would be making a political mistake, as if we were admitting that the will of the people had not yet been expressed," he said.

The session, held a day after Gorbachev delivered his ultimatum to Landsbergis and a week after Lithuania declared independence, was broadcast on Radio Vilnius and monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London.

Latvia and Estonia, the two other once-independent Baltic republics incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, meanwhile prepared for elections on Sunday that could also put them firmly on a breakaway course.

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In Vilnius, economist and senior Communist Party member Kazimira Prunskiene was chosen as the republic's new prime minister by the parliament, with the support of most Sajudis deputies as well as communist representatives.

Jackets to save newsmen

LAHORE, March 17. (Reuters) Reporters covering a rally by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto next week have been offered bulletproof jackets and helmets.

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said it made the offer yesterday following an incident on Thursday in Lahore when gunmen fired on a journalists' protest march.

Lahore is capital of Punjab province which is ruled by the anti-Bhutto, right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA).

Nobody was hurt by the firing from automatic rifles and pistols which the journalists blamed on student followers of Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, Benazir's main rival, whose spokesmen deny any involvement.

The march was to protest against an attack by youths on the offices of the mass-circulation Urdu-language daily Jang on Wednesday night.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light to moderate northeasterly to easterly wind and a chance for scattered rain.

State of sea: Moderate to rough

High water: 4.24 am, 3.05 pm

Low water: 9.30 am, 10.30 pm

Sunrise: 5.54 am

Sunset: 5.56 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmed: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 20°C 68°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 11°C 52°F

Ahmed: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 13°C 55°F

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 22°C 72°F

Ahmed: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 20°C 68°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 41 per cent

Ahmed: 54 per cent

Falaka: 44 per cent

Nervous, upset Imelda appears in New York: lawyers concerned about fair trial



Imelda goes into federal court with her lawyer Gerry Spence in New York.

NEW YORK, March 17. (Agencies) Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, looking nervous and upset, appeared in court in New York yesterday and her lawyer said he was worried that she could not get a fair trial.

Mrs Marcos, wearing a black dress and matching scarf draped around her neck and shoulders, dabbed her mouth and chin with tissue and held rosary beads as a series of pre-trial hearings began before her trial starts on Tuesday.

She is charged with conspiring with her late husband, ousted Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos, to loot \$103 million from their nation's treasury to secretly buy Manhattan real estate.

Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi, also charged in the case, appeared in court looking confident and attentive in a navy bluesuit. He is charged with assisting in the plot.

Mrs Marcos went up the steps of Manhattan federal court on the arm of lawyer Gerry Spence who, wearing a Stetson hat, guided Mrs Marcos past reporters and into a waiting elevator.

He told US district judge John Keenan he was concerned about whether an unbiased panel of jurors could be selected.

"She has been tried and convicted in the press... our primary concern... is how we can determine best that this woman will have a trial with jurors who don't have any preconceived ideas about her."

He told the judge that during a pre-screening of jurors on Thursday he was advised by a court administrator that never in the history of this courthouse has there been so many people willing to sit on a four-month trial.

He said some of the jurors said they already believed Mrs Marcos guilty. "The thing that concerns me is a juror who believes that but doesn't say it," Spence said.

But judge Keenan tried to assure him that all measures would be taken to eliminate biased jurors. "I'm going to pick the jury, Mr Spence and I'm going to pick the jury fairly," the judge said.

The trial is expected to last three to four months.

Mrs Marcos, 60, and her late husband were indicted by a grand jury for plundering the Philippine treasury and fraudulently borrowing \$165 million from US banks to refinance the buildings and to buy additional property.

Ferdinand Marcos died on September 28 in Honolulu at the age of 72.

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Khashoggi

DAY BY DAY

SEVERAL old-aged committees exist in many ministries with the objective of solving problems, but in effect they hamper solutions.

To locate these members, who are not from official bodies, requires a microscope as they are either travelling outside Kuwait, or camping in the desert, or in their chalets and others are sick. Thus issues related to the public are held in abeyance — even though these issues relate to their very future.

Is not the official body sufficient to deal with public issues?

Zahed Matar

INTERNATIONAL

Ishaq, opposition talk Sind

ISLAMABAD, March 17, (Kuna): A 15-member delegation of senior opposition leaders met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the presidency here today and discussed the law and order situation in the troubled Sind province of the country.

During the hour-long meeting other matters of national interest were also discussed by the delegation, led by leader of the Combined Opposition in the National Assembly Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

Jatoi later told reporters that the delegation had suggested to the President to convene an all parties conference on Sind at national level and not provincial level because the Sind situation was now a national issue.

Jatoi did not mention "the other matters" discussed by the COP leaders with President Ishaq but informed sources said that the currently hot topic of fresh vote of confidence by Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto was also touched upon.

The Combined Opposition parties have lately been demanding strongly that the president should use his constitutional powers and convene a session of the National Assembly on March 20 and ask Benazir to seek a fresh vote of confidence from the house.

Asked what would be the COP strategy after March 20 in case the special session was not convened, Jatoi said if the

President could not fulfil his constitutional obligation "the COP will be constrained to go to the superior courts to seek justice."

He said: "We want that the spirit of the constitution is followed in letter and spirit."

Benazir has already ruled out the possibility of seeking a fresh vote of confidence from the lower house of the parliament, the National Assembly.



Two killed in clash

Muslims restrain a fellow Muslim man as he shouts slogans at Indian police forces in south Delhi after a clash between Hindus and Muslims. Two people were killed and 20 injured when police opened fire on the rioting crowd. (Reuters wirephoto)

Roh sacks 15 ministers

Major reshuffle to revive economy

SEOUL, March 17, (Reuters): South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo dismissed 15 ministers in a cabinet shake-up today, provoking an immediate attack from the opposition which accused the government of betraying its commitment to democratic reform.

In the biggest reshuffle of the 26-member cabinet since he took office two years ago, Roh dismissed Deputy Prime Minister Cho Soon and most of his economic team.

Cho, who was also economic planning minister, had been criticised for being too slow and conservative in dealing with South Korea's

stability in all sectors of our society and breathe fresh air into state affairs following the recent political realignment," a presidential spokesman said.

He was referring to last month's surprise merger between Roh's ruling party and two main opposition groups to take control of parliament, previously dominated by the opposition for the first time in South Korean history.

The sole remaining opposition Party for Peace and Democracy led by veteran politician Kim Dae-Jung has denounced the new ruling coalition as an "anti-democratic, anti-national and unethical political coup d'etat toward one-party dictatorship."

In a statement on the cabinet reshuffle, the party accused Roh of recruiting hardliners left over from a draconian era under now-disgraced former president Chung Doo Hwan and his late predecessor Park Chung-Hee.

In its statement the opposition party described the new economic planners as hawks who under previous government had repressed labour rights and created a yawning gap between rich and poor "in collusion with big conglomerates bent on devouring smaller businesses."

South Korean economic growth slowed to an estimated 6.5 per cent in 1989 from more than 12 per cent in each of the three earlier years.

The country — one of Asia's "four tigers" along with Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore — trails behind its economically dynamic rivals in virtually all major indicators because of sagging exports, worsening balance of payments deficit and spiralling inflation.

Newly-appointed Deputy Prime Minister Lee Seung-Yun has been in the vanguard of a drive to remove his predecessor Cho Soon, calling for aggressive expansion to bolster the economy by lowering interest rates, increasing money supply and cracking down on industrial unrest.

Lee's appointment as the nation's top economic minister is expected to bring a considerable change in South Korea's economic policy, which has put emphasis on distribution rather than growth. Lee is known as an advocate of a growth-oriented policy.

"The problems we face now are complex and need time to be solved but I think priority must be directed at encouraging investment and stimulating exports," Lee told reporters after reshuffle.

He said he is willing to announce new measures "as soon as possible to rectify problems and adjust the course of the Korean economy."

The new economic team includes Trade Minister Park Pil-Soo, president of Hankook University of Foreign Studies and a former assistant trade minister.

economic problems.

Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon, Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Joong and Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon were among those retained by Roh, who won the country's first free presidential vote for 16 years in December 1987 on a commitment to full democracy.

Government officials said Roh wanted Choi to help continue Seoul's drive to improve ties with its communist enemy North Korea, as well as the Soviet Union and China, strong backers of Pyongyang.

"The president made the cabinet changes in order to better ensure



Singh takes oath

Aijmer Pal Singh (centre) leaves Parliament House in New Delhi under police escort after taking his parliamentary oath. Singh is currently in prison convicted of terrorist bombing and won his seat while in prison. (Reuters wirephoto)



Patrol

Armed police wearing helmets patrol Beijing's Tiananmen Square on March 17 the day before the opening of the People's Consultative Congress at the Great Hall of the People. (Reuters wirephoto)

Strike against army killing in Bangladesh

DHAKA, March 17, (Reuters): Angry protesters set fire to vehicles and government buildings as an indefinite general strike in protest at the killing of three people by troops shut down a north-east Bangladesh town today.

Opposition leaders who called the strike said the stoppage in Sylhet, which brought the town to a standstill, would continue until the soldiers who shot on a crowd killing three people on Friday were punished.

They also demanded that the dead bodies, which they alleged the soldiers had hidden, be immediately handed over to the next of kin.

Security police guarding the town to stop further rioting watched as anti-government activists marched through the streets shouting slogans against the troops and President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

An official said troops patrolling the town during rural elections yesterday, assaulted some bus passengers alleging one had thrown a cigarette butt at them.

The troops later opened fire on a crowd protesting against the incident, he said. A witness said at least three people died instantly and the troops took away their bodies. Officials denied.

Taiwan students set up 'democracy wall'

TAIPEI, March 17, (Reuters): Taiwan students set up a 'democracy wall' in a Taipei park today in an unprecedented act of protest to back demands for a more democratic presidential election.

About 90 students, wearing yellow headbands and singing 'We Shall Overcome' in Chinese and English, sat outside the park, a memorial to the late military strongman Chiang Kai-Shek.

They were watched by about 200 people, some of them supporters, some just curious that Taiwan's normally docile students were protesting.

The 'democracy wall', a series of bulletin boards, was covered in posters and slogans.

"We are here for freedom of politics," said Taiwan university philosophy student Chen Shui-Yuan. "We want the election to be an open election."

Taiwan's president will be elected on March 21 by the National Assembly, an electoral college dominated by elderly men and women in their 80s and 90s who have been in office since the nationalist government fled communist victory in China in 1949.

The incumbent President, Lee Teng-Hui, the first man born on the island to hold the office, is

running unopposed for his first full term after fighting off an unprecedented challenge from within his ruling Nationalist Party.

The opposition Democratic Progressive Party, which is not fielding a candidate because it could not get the required support from a minimum of 100 assemblymen, plans a major rally at the park tomorrow.

At a news conference today, party officials said up to 10,000 people would attend.

President Lee today took the rare step of making a national address to urge the country to remain calm on the eve of a planned opposition demonstration.

"Everyone must use a more calm and reasonable attitude to face our present political development," Lee said, in a speech broadcast on state radio and TV.

Lee said he believed the body would not go ahead with constitutional changes which have sparked public outcry.

"I believe that all national assemblymen in their final deliberations will certainly use a more cautious attitude, respect and reflect popular will, and reconsider to make a responsible and reasonable decision," he said.

China death verdict for 21

BEIJING, March 17, (Agencies): China has sentenced 21 men in Beijing and Shanghai to death for murder and robbery, and some of their crimes were committed during last year's political unrest.

The Beijing daily said today that a court in the Chinese capital had sentenced Liang Jiancheng and two accomplices to death for robbery and assault committed between April and June last year.

The newspaper did not specifically link the men, whose sentences were imposed on Thursday, to political unrest but China has previously executed people it accused of taking advantage of political turmoil to commit crimes.

The Beijing court condemned four others to die because they had seriously harmed public order but the paper gave no further details.

Shanghai's Liberation daily, in an edition received in Beijing today, said that 14 men were sentenced to death this week in the east coast city for murder or multiple robbery.

Five had their sentences suspended temporarily, a common practice designed to give the accused a chance to reform.

China last year executed 31 people convicted of embezzling and bribery, a senior prosecutor has said.

Zhang Sijing of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, or prosecutors' office, said those condemned to die were among 9,000 found guilty in embezzlement and bribery cases last year, the official China Daily reported yesterday.

Zhang said prosecutors' offices had handled 116,700 such cases during the year, nearly double the 1988 number, and that 20,800 people had been arrested.

The state claims to have retrieved 483 million yuan (\$103 million) in money obtained through embezzlement and bribery.

Official corruption was a major theme of the pro-democracy movement last spring, and since crushing the movement the government has sought to improve its tarnished image with a nationwide campaign against economic crimes.

Britain welcomes offer

US to resettle boat people

LONDON, March 17, (AP): Britain today welcomed a United States offer to resettle half of all the newly-arriving Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong who qualify for asylum.

Ambassador Jewel LaFontaine, the US State Department's co-ordinator for refugee affairs, announced the US offer Friday night after a meeting with foreign office officials.

She said the United States also will contribute \$1.1 million to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, responsible for reviewing the cases of Vietnamese seeking political asylum.

Britain has pledged, \$13 million, she said.

"We welcome any offers to take refugees for resettlement," Britain's foreign office said today.

George Foulkes of the opposition Labour Party said: "This

Manila refuge for Viets

HONG KONG, March 17, (AP): A group of Vietnamese refugees awaiting resettlement will be sent to a holding centre in the Philippines soon to help ease congestion at camps in Hong Kong, a government official said yesterday.

Mike Hanson, Hong Kong's refugee co-ordinator, said Britain and the Philippines agreed on the relocation under an international plan financed by Britain and other countries.

Britain, Hong Kong's colonial administrator, has pledged \$3 million (\$4.87 million) for the project, Hanson said.

Hanson said some details have yet to be finalised on the relocation of the Vietnamese, but added: "We hope the first small group can go by the end of this month."

means the problem will become more manageable. It will give Britain time to adopt a more thoughtful approach."

But government sources said on condition of not being identified the main problem is that more than 90 per cent of Viet-

namese boat people in Hong Kong do not qualify as political refugees. Britain favours mandatory return of Vietnamese boat people as a means of dissuading a new influx of refugees to Hong Kong.

Singh may ride out Devi storm

(Continued from Page 1)

leaders. Devi Lal is learnt to be particularly sore about some statements made against Chautala by Industry Minister Ajit Singh after visiting the scenes of poll violence in the Meham constituency, where the chief minister was contesting by-elections.

Devi Lal's resignation came soon after the meeting of the Dal's political affairs committee yesterday at the prime minister's residence, called mainly to discuss the party's prospects in the coming biannual elections to the Rajya Sabha. One version has it that he announced his decision at the meeting itself before leaving in a huff. In any case, Devi Lal sent a letter of resignation to the prime minister through a courier.

Among other things, Devi Lal is learnt to be unhappy with the treatment meted out to him by the party leadership.

Political parties were still assessing the impact of Devi Lal's action. A leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said the decision was unfortunate. "I hope they sort it out amongst themselves."

Burma warns US against grabbing heroin kingpin

RANGOON, March 17, (Agencies): A US invasion of Burma to capture opium-kingpin Khun Sa would violate Burma's sovereignty and would not be tolerated, a Burmese government spokesman warned yesterday.

The caution was voiced by Burmese Colonel Aung Thein following a recent Voice of America broadcast that reported the US government has indicted Chang Chi-Fu, also known as Khun Sa, on 10 drug trafficking counts involving the largest seizure of heroin ever made.

The VOA broadcast also said the United States seeks Burma's help in apprehending Khun Sa, a Southeast Asia drug lord who

calls himself "Prince Prosperous," and who is accused by the United States of being the "largest dope pusher" in Southeast Asia.

In Washington, Attorney-General Richard Thornburgh announced the indictment of Khun Sa on Thursday on charges of attempting to smuggle 2,389 pounds (1,083 kg) of heroin from Bangkok to New York in 1988, the largest heroin seizure ever made.

He is also accused of smuggling or attempting to smuggle more than 3,500 pounds (1,580 kg) of heroin into New York between 1986 and 1988 in various shipments that ultimately were sold for an estimated \$350 million.

Burma has no extradition treaty with the

United States, so the Burmese government is not in a position to help bring Khun Sa to American justice, said Colonel Aung Thein.

And he cautioned against any US raid to try to capture Khun Sa, declaring Burma would not tolerate such a violation of its national sovereignty.

But Aung Thein added Burma's stand is not to be interpreted as affording protection to Khun Sa.

In Manila, police today killed a suspected drug lord as the man allegedly attempted to grab a gun from his captors while being brought to the National Bureau of Investigation headquarters.

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UFOs invade Russia again

MOSCOW, March 17, (Reuters): Those creatures from outer space, regularly reported to invade Russia, are back — this time in Lenin's home town.

And some experts are starting to blame Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform campaign.

People, these authorities say, are becoming receptive to strange phenomena in an uncertain new era of glasnost (openness) and economic turmoil.

Nationally fascinated by obscure events, the Soviet Union frequently reports sighting of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) but Tass news agency broke fresh ground yesterday by reporting the arrival of a "riverboat from space."

Flashing red and yellow beams, sending a ray of fire and coded signals, it appeared over the Volga River town of Ulyanovsk where state founder Vladimir Lenin was born.

Correspondent Nikolai Milov reported from Ulyanovsk that there had been few UFO buffs in the city until last Tuesday night.

Strange

That was when Tatyana Bednyakova "looked out of her window at the night sky and could hardly believe her eyes," the reporters for the official state news agency related.

He added there was "hardly any reason" to doubt her story.

Bednyakova called two neighbours and "they all saw what they described as 'something strange'." Their attention was drawn to three odd points of light in the sky, two situated on one level, radiated yellow light; the third point, above the first two, radiated red light.

"This 'something' then sent a fiery ray, which moved up and down, seemingly sending undecipherable signals."

"After that the object illuminated from the inside, turning into something like a river vessel with windows."

"After making a sweeping elliptical manoeuvre, the 'ship' disappeared, leaving a bright glowing spot. The spot glowed brightly for some time, and then began to fade away."

The Tass correspondent said that "surprisingly" about two weeks earlier a group of local policemen "saw something very similar."

Robots

That was less startling than the accounts given by residents of the central Russian city Voronezh — and correspondents from the official media — last September.

They all reported seeing huge, three-eyed, gun-toting terrestrials, robots and spacehips.

Explaining that phenomenon, one Western diplomat said: "Much of it has to do with the tremendous upsurge in religion over the past few years. Russians are by nature deeply religious people and are now desperately looking for something to believe in."

Religious belief was heavily discouraged during the rule of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and only really started to recover after Gorbachev came to power five years ago and encouraged more freedom of thought.

Amid the space-fever excitement of Ulyanovsk, there was no indication what Lenin, one of history's most disciplined revolutionaries, would have made of it.

Aliens

But last November, referring to the previous wave of UFO sightings, Gorbachev's economic adviser Leonid Abalkin told a news conference.

"Flying saucers have become the main topic of the day."

"People think that some guy is going to climb out of a UFO and explain the best way to develop socialism. Sometimes we just do not believe in our own ability."

Two witches burnt to death

JOHANNESBURG, March 17, (AP): Two elderly women were dragged from their houses and burned to death by a mob that thought they were witches, police said yesterday.

Police in the nominally independent Transkei homeland on the south-east coast said the women, aged 60 and 67, were doused with gasoline and tossed onto burning car tyres sometime earlier this week.

People thought to be witches are attacked and killed from time to time in remote rural areas where witchcraft is practiced.

Police said no arrests had been made in the case.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LOS ANGELES: Janet Jackson and the British group Soul II Soul each won three awards, and veteran producer Quincy Jones was honoured for his long career at the fourth annual Soul Train Music Awards Wednesday night.

Jackson, currently on tour, took top honours for her album, *Rhythm Nation 1814*, which was named best rhythm and blues album and whose hit single, "Miss You Much," was named best R and B Female Single. Her music video for the title song from her "Rhythm Nation 1814" took best R and B Video at the awards, which showcase and honour black musical talent.

Soul II Soul, shut out in last month's American music awards, was named best R and B Group, won for best R and B Album by a group for "Keep On Movin'," and the album's title cut was named R and B Song of the Year. (UPI)

LAGOS, Nigeria: Thousands of Nigerians cheered Britain's Prince Charles and his wife, Diana, lining their route Friday to Lagos' main teaching hospital, where the couple presented an incubator.

Health Minister Professor Othman Ransome-Kuti showed the royal couple through a children's ward of Lagos University teaching hospital and discussed the many medical problems facing Africa's most populous nation. (AP)

AMSTERDAM: Dutch police are using a surveillance helicopter to track down two kangaroos on the run for almost a week in heathland in the southern province of Brabant.

A police spokesman warned curious members of the public not to get too close if they saw the Australian high-jumpers, which escaped from a private zoo.

"Kangaroos are really rather shy creatures and get a bit tetchy if cornered. Although they're not violent they pack quite a powerful kick in their hind legs," he said. (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Rising social and political unrest contributed to the killings of at least 33 journalists in 1989, more than double the number slain because of their work in the previous year, a study says.

Two-thirds of the killings occurred in Latin America, including 14 in El Salvador alone, said the committee to protect journalists. It labeled the slayings "censorship by death." (AP)

Drinking US airline fires crew

MINNEAPOLIS, March 17, (Reuters): A US airline yesterday fired a three-man flight crew for drinking a few hours before they flew a plane with 91 passengers on board from north Dakota to Minnesota.

"We apologise to our passengers and to our employees for this serious incident involving federal air rules, company policy and good judgment," Northwest Airlines said.

It called the incident "an aberration, a uniquely unfortunate occurrence."

The airline said it received an anonymous telephone call on March 7 which said the crew had been drinking at a bar about six hours before the 200-mile (320 km) flight.



Maryam Babangida, wife of Nigeria President Ibrahim Babangida shows the Princess of Wales some crafts made by rural Nigerian women in Lagos yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

BUCHAREST, Romania: Hundreds of blind people demonstrated outside provisional government headquarters Friday, waving their white canes and demanding a monopoly over their occupations and priority housing.

The blind demonstrators came from around the country to Victory Square, the site of major political demonstrations since the revolution.

Ion Mancea, of the Enterprise for the Blind Organisation, said "we demand from the government the right to work. Up to now we've only made brushes and boxes and done massage and worked on the switchboard." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: J. Paul Getty Museum is considering buying Vincent Van Gogh's painting "Iris," which was sold less than three years ago for a record \$53.9 million, museum sources said on Thursday.

Australian businessman Alan Bond set an art auction record when he bought the painting at Sotheby's in New York in 1987. Since then, Bond's fortunes have slid and his brewing, media and property empire face a barrage of lawsuits by creditors. (Reuters)

WASHINGTON: Yellowed drawings from Henri Matisse's sketchbook in Morocco, many of them unknown to art scholars for nearly 80 years, will be displayed publicly for the first time Sunday at the National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition of paintings and drawings by the French post-Impressionist during two visits to Morocco also represents a breakthrough in US-Soviet cultural collaboration, says gallery director J. Carter Brown. (AP)

Stockholm at war with rats

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, March 17, (AP): Authorities have declared war on vermin after two successive mild winters encouraged an exploding rodent population in Stockholm's inner city, where experts now count two rats per human.

The Svenska Dagbladet daily quoted officials yesterday saying they expect it to take three years to bring the rats under control.

Next week, four "commando groups" will begin stalking the sewage system armed with rat poison.

"We will open up 8,000 sewage outlets a year and put out rat poison," said exterminator Gyorgy Bellaagh.

An estimated 2 million rats prowled Stockholm's cellars, sewage pipes and subway tunnels, and some appear to be abandoning their overcrowded subterranean domains.

TOKYO: Tokyo Gas Co., Japan's largest city gas supplier, will construct an apartment exclusively for foreign envoys strapped to pay Tokyo's high rents, a company official said Saturday.

Under the plans, the building to be used as a residence for 30 ambassadors will be constructed on company land in central Tokyo, said the official, who requested anonymity.

He said the company has yet to decide when to start construction. Plans to build an apartment for foreign envoys followed a request from Japan's Foreign Ministry a few years ago, he added. (AP)

Couple faces neglect trial in case of doglike boy

MUSKOGEE, Oklahoma, March 17, (AP): A young boy panted and pawed for attention after he was rescued from a dirt-floored pen at his grandparents' home, where he was kept along with 60 dogs, witnesses testified in a child neglect trial.

"He howled. He reared back on his haunches, tilted his head and looked up," said Cheryl Shropshire, the boy's department of human services foster parent. "He acted like a little dog."

Gene and Joyce White are charged with failing to care for a minor, a misdemeanor. Their jury-trial started Thursday in Muskogee county district court. The Whites, who are representing themselves, said the boy's behaviour was natural for a 4-year-old, and that he was imitating cartoon characters he saw on television.

"Our prime concern is for the child, and it has been from the very beginning," said White, 54. Vicki Cowan, the Whites' daughter and the boy's aunt, testified her parents kept the boy in the pen because they worried he would run onto US Highway 69, which runs in front of the Whites' home.

District attorney Drew Edmondson told jurors the boy learned his bizarre behaviour by being left in the uncovered, dirt-floored dog pen.

"The child's behaviour ... of acting like a dog is imitating the environment he was exposed to at home," Edmondson said.

"His time in that dog pen was not an isolated occurrence."

Ms Shropshire said the boy continued to behave strangely after he was brought to her home Aug 30, including fetching toys with his mouth.

"He ran wildly through the house, crashing into walls, and most of the time he ran on all fours. If he wanted attention, he would run up to us and paw at our bodies, rub his head on us, and whimper," Ms Shropshire said.

Edmondson showed jurors a videotape made by a social worker in the Shropshires' living room that showed the boy panting, grabbing a balloon in his mouth and barking.

Man dies of ultraviolet overdose

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, March 17, (AP): A 90-year-old man who stayed in a doctor's ultraviolet light booth for 20 minutes instead of 20 seconds died of complications from severe burns.

Henry Homer, a retired furniture dealer from Chicago, died of an infection brought on by the burns, according to an autopsy report, said Dr Bruce Hyma of the Dade County medical examiner's office.

Prostate cancer and the skin condition contributed to the death, Hyma said yesterday.

"I can't comprehend something like this happening," said one of Homer's sons, Don, 58. "All they have to do is set a simple timer and watch the patient."

An attorney for the doctor said yesterday that Homer, having had previous treatments, should have known to leave the booth sooner.

"The patient knew he was undergoing treatment

for only 20 seconds and he was free to walk out of the box at any moment," said Stuart Grossman, attorney for Dr Philipp Frost.

Frost didn't respond to a telephone request for comment.

Homer got the ultraviolet light treatment for psoriasis, a skin condition, at Frost's office at Mount Sinai Medical Centre on Feb 16, said another son, Mel Homer.

Frost's staff had Homer take off his clothes and get into the telephone booth-sized enclosure, but didn't return to get him out, and Homer finally left on his own, the son said.

Homer, who suffered first — and second-degree burns everywhere except the soles of his feet, was immediately admitted to the hospital, relatives said.

Miami Beach police detective Paul Scrimshaw is conducting what he called "an open death investigation."

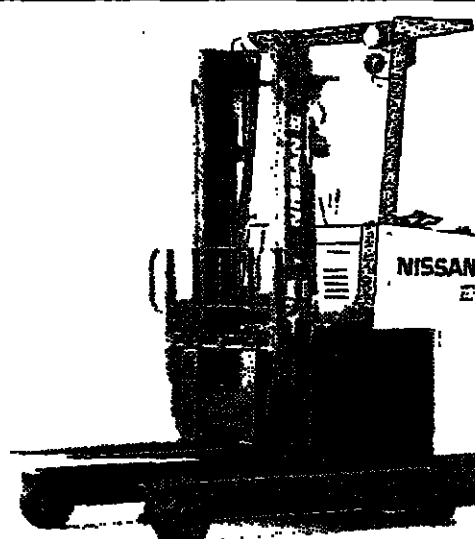
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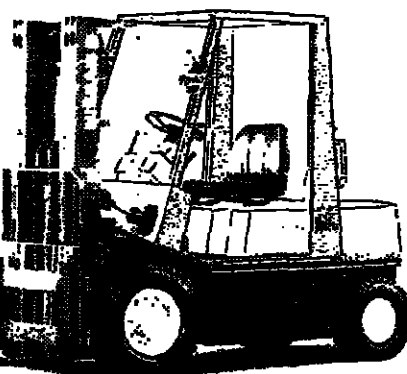
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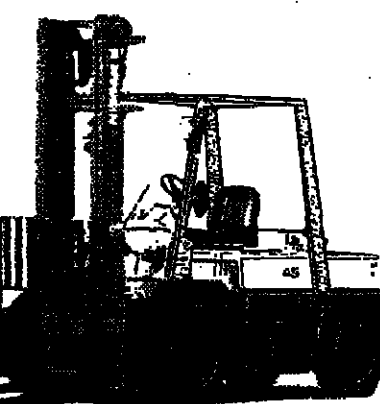
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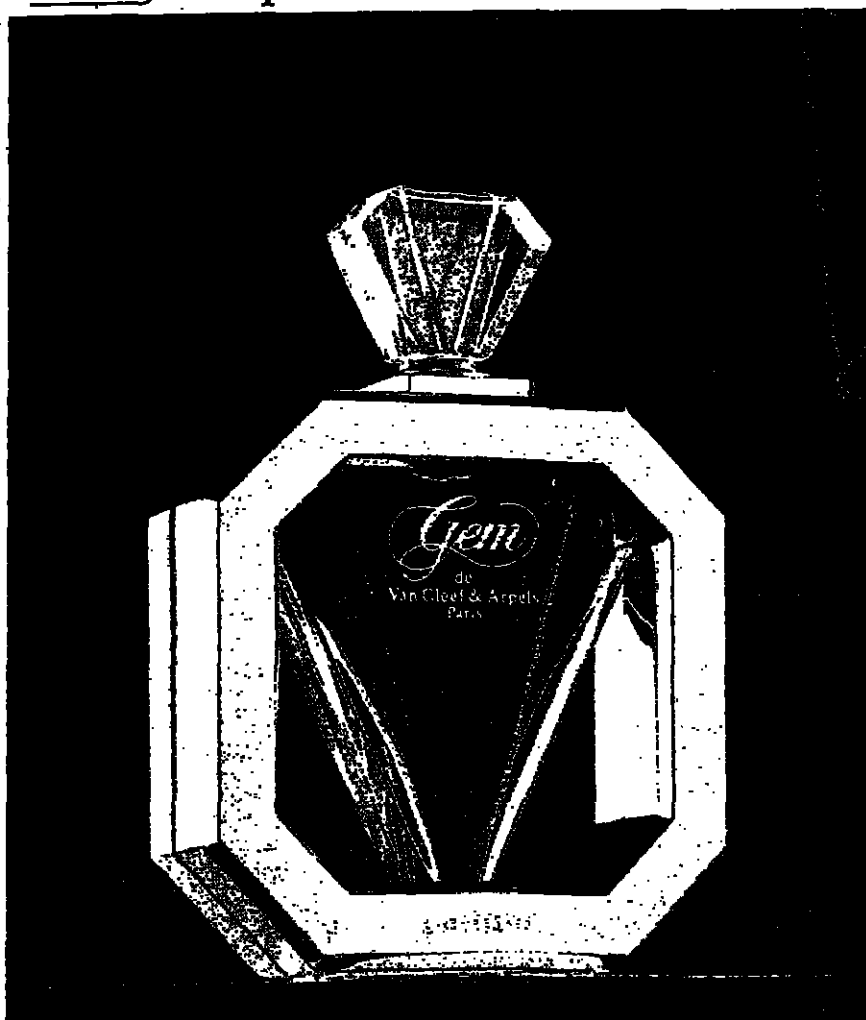


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'I'm in charge': Gorbachev tells scribes

MOSCOW, March 17, (Reuters): Mikhail Gorbachev, elected to the new powerful post of Soviet president, said he would make all the important decisions — even when he was on vacation.

"I think the presidency will continue to implement its leadership all the time, even during the vacation period," the Kremlin chief told reporters Thursday.

"Of course, some of the current business will be relegated to members of the presidential council, but not a single cardinal question will be decided without consulting the president."

Gorbachev, who takes at least one mon-

th's vacation a year, was speaking to Soviet and foreign reporters at a late-night Kremlin news conference after the Congress of People's Deputies, the expanded parliament, ended its session.

The remark suggested that Gorbachev would take responsibility for all top decisions so that there would not be confusion over who had given an order — such as in the April 1989 despatch of troops to break up a peaceful demonstration in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Twenty people were killed. Afterwards, Politburo members did not agree who took the decision to send the troops.

Conservative Yegor Ligachev said the entire Politburo was in on the decision; Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said neither he nor Gorbachev were involved.

Ligachev has been urged to resign from the Soviet Communist Party's ruling Politburo during this week's plenum of the policy-making Central Committee, Pravda revealed today.

The presidential council to which Gorbachev referred is a new advisory body created by presidential law approved on Tuesday.

Its powers are broad but vague. The

prime minister is a member by law, but the other members are to be chosen by the president and Gorbachev has not yet named them.

Gorbachev was giving his first news conference since being elected to the presidential post, which has unprecedented powers, including the right to rule by decree. It was only his second in Moscow since he became Communist Party leader five years ago.

The first was after the May 1988 summit with former US president Ronald Reagan. Gorbachev said he planned to hold regular news conferences as president.

Watchdog assures fraud-proof election

East Germans go to first free polls today

EAST BERLIN, March 17, (AP): The chief of an all-party watchdog commission has assured voters that East Germany's first free elections are fraud-proof, trying to allay distrust in a country used to communist vote-rigging.

Most campaigning ended yesterday, but a few political parties planned final pitches today, the eve of balloting that will give East Germany its first freely elected Parliament since its founding in 1949

An estimated 12.3 million voters are eligible to choose from among 24 parties and groupings. Election helpers completed work on the 22,000 polling stations nationwide.

The communists are expected by most observers to end up in an opposition role.

Party chief Gregor Gysi wound up their campaign with a rally before thousands of people in East Berlin. He called for a united Germany to remain outside the Western military alliance, echoing Moscow's stand, and recalled the social safety net set up under communist rule.

Petra Blass, head of an all-party election oversight commission, told a news conference all measures have been taken to ensure against vote fraud.

"In the Berlin computer centre, there are no possibilities for manipulation in the transmitting and compiling of the results from the voting districts," said Blass, a 25-year-old student.

Three members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, also will act as election observers.

The delegation's leader, Danish parliamentarian Kirsten Jensen, told the East German news agency ADN she did not fear "anything undemocratic" could happen in the balloting.

Vote fraud remains a touchy,

subject in East Germany. Rigging in local elections in May is considered a main factor in the autumn uprising that toppled hardline communist leader Erich Honecker, opened the Berlin Wall and launched the reform process.

A nation-wide survey published yesterday suggested nearly half of all East Germans favour immediate unification, although a third of the electorate would prefer a slower joining of the two states. Germany was split into communist East and capitalist West Germany after the World War II defeat of Nazi Germany.

The poll found that 84 per cent favoured unification in general, according to a survey conducted jointly by the Central Institute for Youth Research and the Institute for Market Research, both from Leipzig.

According to recent polls, front-runners are the leftist Social Democrats and the Alliance for Germany, a coalition of three conservative parties.

Those two forces mirror the mainstream parties in West Germany, the Christian Democrats of Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Social Democrats, who include the hugely popular former chancellor Willy Brandt.

The West German parties poured heavy campaign support into East Germany.

and complete the transition from communist rule.

Sunday's vote is for a new 400-seat Parliament, which could decide the pace of unification with West Germany.

Some conservative parties urge quick unification. Some leftist groups are for a more cautious and slower approach. All major parties support unification.



The Berlin Wall continues to be tourist attraction in front of the Brandenburg Gate as people continue to climb on top. (Reuters wirephoto)

Modrow, Kohl want German unity

EAST BERLIN, March 17, (UPI): East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl agreed yesterday the divided country should be unified, but disagreed on how fast to do it after tomorrow's East German election.

In separate statements they both accepted the slogan shouted by hundreds of thousands in election rallies — "Germany, our united fatherland."

Modrow, who has conceded his Communist Party has no chance of winning East Germany's first free election, told the Berliner Zeitung, an East Berlin communist-leaning newspaper, that although he now has dropped his opposition to unification, he does not want a "speedy unity."

Modrow, a follower of Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev who is much more popular than the Communist Party of which he is the standard bearer, said that in Moscow, Warsaw, Sofia, and other places there is understanding that Germany must be unified.

He added, however, "at the same time it is stressed again and again the action must be carried out step by step, by stages" to avoid the creation of a super Germany.

Kohl in a statement issued in Bonn said the majority of Germans in both East and West want unity "as soon as possible."

"The election for the Volkskammer (people's chamber) of the German Democratic Republic is a fateful election for all Germany," Kohl said. "Every eligible voter is called on to vote to help build a better future in his homeland and a free and unified Germany in a free, unified Europe."

He said after tomorrow's election the West German govern-



Party for Democratic Socialism (PDS) chairman Gregor Gysi addresses a mass rally in Alexander Platz. It was the last rally for PDS before the March 18 elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stars predict good news for Kohl

EAST BERLIN, March 17, (Reuters): Few pollsters have been rash enough to predict whether West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will be happy with the East German election result tomorrow.

But the stars and the Chinese calendar say he will.

Kohl, pushing for German unification and showing all the signs of running for election himself in the former Stalinist state, campaigned lustily to ensure his political protégés — the Conservative Alliance for Germany — defeat the left wing.

"A change will in general be welcome," Kohl's horoscope for March 18 begins enigmatically. Then it gets promising.

"You had, in fact, reckoned on resistance, so all the more pleasant is the surprise," said the forecast in West Germany's Stern magazine.

The chancellor, born under the sign Aries on

April 3, 1930, is not known to consult the zodiac — he often ducks probing questions with the quip that he is "no Kremlin astrologist."

Opinion polls cannot be relied upon to winkle out voter intentions ahead of the East German polls, the first completely free elections in Eastern Europe in half a century.

A month ago the polls gave the left-wing Social Democrats an unassailable lead of 53 per cent. Now they show them running neck-and-neck with the three-party Conservative Alliance.

The pollsters admit they are on uncharted ground, so the stars may be as accurate as any educated guess.

According to the Chinese calendar, 1990 is the Year of the Horse — as it was in 1930 when Kohl was born. Other famous German "horses" are car and engine inventors Gottlieb Daimler, Rudolf Diesel and Kohl's predecessor Helmut Schmidt.

power. "Orders and reports of the Ministry of State Security" is not light reading or particularly engaging prose.

The book is an edited selection, in the original police bureaucratic jargon, of the workings, targets and findings of the many-tentacled but now disbanded secret police.

Known by the nickname of "Stasi" the detested, 85,000-strong force imposed Stalinist order for 40 years.

The 56 reports in the paperback, price German marks (\$2), are all "top secret."

Thatcher could lose her seat, poll says

LONDON, March 17, (Reuters): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, increasingly unpopular for her economic policies, could lose her north London parliamentary seat in the next election, an opinion poll showed yesterday.

The Harris poll for London weekend television's Eyewitness programme, said that if there were an election now, Thatcher would lose her Finchley constituency by a handful of votes.

Her majority in the last election, when she led by 22 per cent over the opposition Labour Party, has been eroded to the point where both parties enjoyed 43 per cent of voter support.

A separate poll also showed Labour well ahead nationally.

Labour was 18 points ahead of the Conservatives, according to an Nop poll for the British Broadcasting Corporation's newsnight programme and the Independent newspaper.

The Conservatives have fallen back three points over the past month.

Labour took 51 per cent of support in the poll compared to 48 per cent last month, while the Conservatives took 33 per cent compared with 36 per cent in the previous month.

Thatcher's government has been losing support because of high interest rates which are hurting people repaying home loans, a rising inflation rate, and an unpopular new "poll tax" introduced to replace property taxes.

The "poll tax," imposed on adults of voting age, has sparked a series of demonstrations, which have often turned violent.

Results of another poll published on Thursday showed that the Conservatives were heading for a sensational defeat at the hands of Labour in crucial by-election this month.

The poll showed that 54.5 per cent of voters in the Conservative stronghold of mid-Staffordshire, where a by-election is due on March 22, now supported Labour.

Iraqis protest

(Continued from Page 1)

British action interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The state-run television reported that similar demonstrations, called yesterday by the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party amid an international outcry against execution, were held in other cities.

Residents in Basra, in the south, and Mosul, in the north, contacted by telephone by the Associated Press reported that thousands of demonstrators were in the streets chanting anti-British slogans.

Like the thousands who paraded through central Baghdad, jamming the city's main thoroughfares, they chanted slogans hailing President Saddam Hussein.

Senior Baath members led the demonstrators and gathered outside the embassy's main gate to salute them as they marched past.

Sadi Mehdi Saleh, speaker of Iraq's Parliament and the senior party official who heads the Baath's Baghdad chapter, told the Associated Press that the demonstration was designed to show Britain that Iraqis were united behind Saddam and his design to enforce the court verdict and execute Bazof.

British nurses launched a petition appeal to Iraq today to reduce the 15-year jail sentence imposed on one of their colleagues for helping executed Bazof.

But the main "secret" they contain is the force's paranoia and alarm at every suspicion of change in a monolithic state, now in transition to becoming a multi-party democracy.

Every dissident worth his salt can find his name in the book, Western correspondents duly get a mention, too.

One report on Leipzig's Nikolai church, cradle of East Germany's peaceful revolution, said: "These Monday prayer sessions reveal an aggressive mood and a heated atmosphere."

On October 10, 1989 — a month before the old Stalinist regime gave in and opened



Soviet soldiers read a copy of Pravda from the back of a truck near Red Square. The paper devotes its entire front page to the election and swearing in of Gorbachev. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rift over unified German alignment

Warsaw Pact divided

PRAGUE, March 17, (Reuters): Warsaw Pact foreign ministers were divided today over whether a future unified Germany could be a member of Nato, a Czechoslovak spokesman said.

Ministers from the seven pact countries met in Prague on the eve of elections in East Germany, where all major contestants favour rapid unification with West Germany, to discuss the implications of unity for Europe's rival military blocs.

They agreed that both the Warsaw Pact and Nato, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, would remain in being for some time and that Germany had a right to unification, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky told reporters.

But they were split over Ger-

man membership of Nato, he said. The Soviet Union has repeatedly said a unified Germany must be neutral.

"There was the view that a future German state should in no case be a member of Nato," Dobrovsky said.

"But there was also the view that the future German state's membership of Nato could be positive."

He gave no details.

The talks ended after about four hours. No final document was issued and Dobrovsky stressed that the meeting was a consultative one separate from regular pact sessions.

Other officials said the talks had been open, frank and constructive.

Czechoslovak Foreign Mini-

ster Jiri Dienstbier, who called the meeting at short notice, said unification of Germany could be a means towards uniting Europe as a whole.

He called on a new Germany to give up all "weapons of annihilation" and to state firmly once and for all that it recognised the permanence of its eastern border with Poland.

"The border question cannot be put off any longer if we want European security," Dienstbier said in an opening statement.

All participants agreed that both alliances, the Warsaw Pact and Nato, would remain for some time to come, but we should all endeavour to transfer the emphasis from military to political issues," Dobrovsky said.

Ceausescu brother to be tried for murder

Secret police monitored mail

BUCHAREST, March 17, (Reuters): General Nicolae Ceausescu, the brother and namesake of Romania's late dictator, is to be tried for murder next month, Romanian Radio said today.

It quoted High Court President Teodor Vasiliu as saying that the general — known as Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu to distinguish him from his brother — would be tried for "extremely serious murder" and a number of lesser crimes.

The trial, beginning on April 2, will be the first against any member of the Ceausescu family since the dictator and his wife Elena were tried and executed on Dec 25 last year.

General Ceausescu was the head of the Securitate secret police officer school at Baneasa near Bucharest.

No official confirmation of the

trial, announced by Vasiliu in a statement to Bucharest radio, was immediately available.

General Ceausescu was not well known during his elder brother's 24-year rule.

Romanian sources said he shared the same name as his brother because his father, a hard-drinking peasant, forgot he had already christened one of his sons Nicolae.

Ceausescu's three children, Valentin, Zoe and Nicu, are being held in secret locations in Romania awaiting trial.

The radio also announced that an appeal against the life sentences imposed on four top Ceausescu aides last month would begin on Monday.

The death penalty was abolished after the executions of Ceausescu and his wife.

Dingy offices where secret police steamed open the mail of Ceausescu's suspected opponents before the December revolution were displayed by the defence ministry.

General Nicolae Cerbu said 120 staff who occupied a high security wing of Bucharest's main sorting office read up to 6,000 private letters a week.

The letters were resealed and delivered after their contents had been noted by experts of the Securitate police who terrorised Romanian society while Ceausescu was in power.

Cerbu said interference with the mail as well as the bugging of hotels, offices, homes and telephones was stopped after Ceausescu was overthrown and executed.

"We cut the evil at the roots," Cerbu told journalists who were shown the dim and grubby Securitate rooms in an anonymous, modern block beside the capital's main railway station.

"It's complete with his now-famous plea, 'but I love you all,' to which he was jeered."

In East Berlin hundreds queued to buy up handfuls of the book from street book-

New leader: Mongolia's newly elected communist leader, Gorbajayn Uchirbat, 61, who replaced Zhambyn Balmunkh, as general secretary of the Communist Party. Uchirbat fired hundreds of party workers to build a leader, first steps to fight the nation's first Communist elections. (Reuters wirephoto)

Political outcry over indictment

ROME, March 17, (UPI): The indictment of Domenico Sica, Italy's high commissioner in the struggle against organised crime, raised cries of protest today from politicians on all sides.

"This is a war between magistrates and mafias rather than against the mafia," Christian Democrat Labour Minister Carlo Donat Cattin told reporters. "We shall have to see who it is that is respecting the regulations."

"We are faced with a very serious case," said Giorgio La Malfa, leader of the Republican Party. "It attacks the nature and image of the high commissioner, who was appointed by the government under a specific law."

The political furor stemmed from the action of Rome prosecutor Rosario Di Manno, revealed late yesterday, in starting legal action against Sica, 57, accusing him of usurping judiciary powers and revealing official secrets.



Drivers strike: Italian queue in front of a Rome petrol station as the drivers strike enters its fifth day. (Reuters wirephoto)

LAUNCH

Reds lose 8 million members

PALO ALTO, Calif., March 17. (Reuters): Communist parties around the world lost some eight million members last year, according to figures released yesterday by a politically conservative US research group.

The 24th edition of the Hoover Institution's "Yearbook on International Communist Affairs," which is produced annually from the work of some 85 scholars, said total Communist Party membership declined in Eastern Europe last year by 25 per cent.

It said total membership in the world dropped from an estimated 90.5 million people in 1988 to 82.6 million in 1989.

"The overnight dissolution of the Romanian Communist Party — with a total disappearance from 3.8 million members down to zero members after the execution of party leader Nicolae Ceausescu — represented one of the most dramatic events of the year," said yearbook editor Richard Starr.

Other losses in Eastern Europe included:

Czechoslovakia, 1.3 million; East Germany, 1.3 million; Poland, one million; Hungary, 735,000, and Yugoslavia, 212,000, the group said.

According to the scholars, party memberships in Western Europe dropped nearly 41 per cent, down from 2.6 million a year ago to 1.5 million in early 1990.

The yearbook reported that the Chinese party claimed its membership increased by one million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reconciliation talks

WARSAW, March 17. (Reuters): Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa held a reconciliation meeting today at a mountain hideaway where Polish and Czechoslovak dissidents once plotted against communism.

Havel, Walesa and up to 40 former dissidents, many now top officials in the two countries, will meet alternately in chalets on both sides of the wooded Karkonosze mountain range.

Walesa, who snubbed the Czechoslovak president in January by staying away from a lunch in his honour, says he and Havel will seek ways in which their two countries cooperate in the post-communist era.

Paternity suit

MADRID, March 17. (Reuters): Spain's top court ruled in a paternity suit yesterday that millionaire bull-fighter Manuel Benitez "El Cordobes" fathered a US-born boy.

The constitutional court, ending years of legal battle, said a paternity claim filed by Spanish-born actress Elizabeth Velasco for her son Manuel Benitez Velasco, now aged 20, was valid.

Velasco says she lived with El Cordobes, then one of the world's best-paid entertainers, in 1968 and gave birth to his son in the following year after returning home to the United States.

Charges dropped

DALLAS, March 17. (Reuters): An investigating jury was asked yesterday to bring formal charges against a repairman who witnessed a murder and then shot the killer to death with a laser-guided handgun.

Police did not charge Todd Alan Broom, 25, who admitted firing at a car racing away from the Dallas shopping mall where he had witnessed the murder on Monday.

Broom told reporters he considers himself neither a hero nor a vigilante. "Those are words used by other people. At this point... I regret that I went to the mall that day," Broom said.

Bombing foiled

BELEFAST, March 17. (AP): Police said they foiled a car bomb attack in Northern Ireland today.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said a patrol arrested a man acting suspiciously in Coalisland, County Tyrone, in the early hours today and discovered a barrel bomb containing 30 pounds (91 kg) of homemade explosives.

While the device was being made safe, police said people nearby by having club three bottles and stones at officers who responded by firing plastic bullets.

Prisoners riot

MADRID, March 17. (Reuters): Prisoners rioted at two jails yesterday as warden in several Spanish prisons continued a strike to demand protection against Basque guerrillas, unions said.

Inmates at Alicante captured a para-military civil guard, injured another with a brick and wrecked the roof of their prison.

In Cordoba, prisoners raided the prison infirmary, seized equipment and threatened to wreck the jail.

Different unions gave figures ranging from 15 to more than 30 of Spain's 83 prisons affected by an extension of Thursday's 24-hour strike, which coincided with the funeral of a prison paymaster shot dead by suspected Basque separatists.

Prosecutor warns

ROME, March 17. (Reuters): A Rome prosecutor warned Italy's top anti-mafia official yesterday he was under investigation on suspicion of abusing his power and violating the secrecy of his office.

Judicial sources said the warnings, issued to High Commissioner Domenico Sica, was in connection with a scandal over alleged letters which accused Palermo Magistrate Giovanni Falcone of negligence and illicit methods in handling mafia informers.

African diplomacy

WASHINGTON, March 17. (AP): Secretary of State James A. Baker, venturing in to his first round of on-site African diplomacy, will urge South African President FW de Klerk next week to end a 3-1/2-year state of emergency and to release all remaining political prisoners.

As Baker's trip was announced yesterday by the State Department, the De Klerk government said it would begin negotiations with Nelson Mandela and exiled leaders of the African National Congress on April 11.

A senior US official said Baker hopes to accelerate the negotiations, but ruled out demands by Mandela for stiffer US sanctions against South Africa as a pressure tactic.

Blast kills child

LISBON, March 17. (AP): A bomb exploded in the office of a government-run union office in the Angolan capital of Luanda, killing a 6-year-old child and wounding five people, news reports said today.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility in the explosion, the fourth in Luanda in three months. Angolan rebels, who have claimed responsibility for several bombings in Luanda, recently announced they would step up urban guerrilla attacks in response to a government troop offensive.



Pizarro 'returns'

Carlos Pizarro, leader of the M-19 Movement, waits for the gates of the 'Picote' prison to open. Pizarro, who spent three years in jail in Bogota, visited political prisoners. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arms control pacts may be delayed

Row over missiles

WASHINGTON, March 17.

(Reuters): A dispute between the Soviet Union and the United States over verification of the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty may complicate negotiations on two other crucial arms control agreements. US officials said yesterday.

They fear the dispute over an X-ray scanner which the United States wants to use to check the contents of missile canisters leaving a factory in the Soviet Union may also strengthen right-wing opponents of arms control agreements within the White House and Congress.

"This dispute points up the necessity for even more precise scrutiny of the language and nuances of the treaties and will focus our attention on that even more than before," said one Bush administration official.

"It's going to be slow and painful anyway getting the language right. This could make it slower," he said.

The problem arose last weekend at the missile plant of Votkinsk, when Soviet officials refused to allow US technicians to inspect the contents of three

US unfit for low-intensity warfare

WASHINGTON, March 17. (Reuters): The US Defence Department, long focused on the Soviet military threat, is not geared up to fight the low-intensity Third World warfare it is most likely to face in the future, a Congressional report said on Friday.

The report by the General Accounting Office said US forces were likely to face a wide variety of weapons in such wars, including Soviet and American arms and weapons from other Western nations as well as unorthodox systems.

"Low-intensity warfare is not necessarily low technology warfare," the office said.

missile canisters with an X-ray system called "cargo scan".

The X-rays are needed to check the canisters do not contain SS-20 missiles banned by the treaty.

"The United States regards any question of compliance with the INF treaty as a very serious matter. We have raised this issue at high levels in both Moscow and Washington, including a communication from Secretary Baker to Foreign Minister Shevardnadze," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

Shevardnadze had replied to

Baker agreeing that the matter needed to be resolved quickly. Both countries had sent teams of technical experts to the site to try to sort it out.

Tutwiler made her statement because the incident had already been leaked to the US media. Yesterday, right-wing columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak provided a dramatic account in the Washington Post, saying Soviet guards drew their pistols against unarmed US technicians.

This was denied by White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, who said: "That's not true. No guns were drawn."

Keep the heat on SA, urges Mandela

JOHANNESBURG, March 17.

(Reuters): Nelson Mandela returned home from a foreign tour today to face a nation wracked by bloody fighting between black factions and township riots against police.

Against the backdrop of the fighting, Mandela and other African National Congress leaders must prepare for their first formal talks with the white government.

Mandela, his wife Winnie, and a small entourage, were embraced by waiting black officials, and greeted with raised fists by a dozen airport workers at the stairs of the Swissair jet that brought them from Sweden.

Mandela had attended a rally and concert in his honour last night in Stockholm, where he had spent five days consulting with ANC President Oliver Tambo, who is recovering from a stroke.

Mandela ended his visit to Sweden with a plea to his supporters to maintain pressure against South Africa and so bring about the collapse of apartheid.

"When the water is about to boil, it would be foolish to turn the heat off," Mandela told an indoor rally in Stockholm last night.

Mandela, 71, received superstar treatment from the 12,000 capacity audience, some of whom had travelled from Iceland, Finland, Norway and Denmark to glimpse the African National Congress (ANC) figurehead.

"There are signs the apartheid system is about to crumble and to ensure that it crumbles we need to increase all forms of pressure," Mandela said in a 20-minute speech repeatedly interrupted by applause and stamping.

During his visit Mandela has canvassed support for tougher economic sanctions against South Africa, and has also called for ANC sympathisers to break off diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

Earlier, Mandela expressed surprise at the depth of feeling in Nordic countries for the African National Congress.

"I knew we enjoyed support, but I had not the slightest idea how deep was the feeling for our struggle, thousands of miles from us. I did not expect the support to be so well based," he said on Swedish radio.

South African President FW de Klerk announced yesterday an ANC delegation including Mandela would meet him in Cape Town on April 11 to begin talks about formal negotiations over reforms.

Mandela expressed confidence over De Klerk's commitment to political change, but made clearer the ANC would be looking for immediate results from the talks.

"We are certainly not going to allow any delays, but we will not be unreasonable," Mandela told the radio.

US Secretary of State James Baker will meet De Klerk in Cape Town next week, and Mandela in Namibia, the State Department said.

Warders strike

JOHANNESBURG, March 17. (Reuters): South African police fired teargas at striking black warders yesterday after anti-apartheid demonstrations spilled to prisons for the first time in the history of white minority rule.

At least 262 striking warders at the Johannesburg prison outside the huge township of Soweto were suspended following a protest against working conditions at the jail.



Cuban leader Fidel Castro gestures while answering a question during a press conference in the legislative palace in Brasilia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Attack would mean many corpses

Castro warns US

BRASILIA, March 17. (Reuters):

Cuban leader Fidel Castro said yesterday the United States would have "a good dose of corpses in boxes" if it invaded Cuba.

"For them (the United States) imperialist aggressions always cease to be applauded when corpses in boxes start to arrive. We will have to guarantee a good dose of corpses in boxes so that there is no invasion," he said.

Castro, who arrived in Brazil for Thursday's inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello, was speaking at a huge news conference attended by more than 1,000 journalists in Brasilia's ultra-modern Congress Building.

The Cuban leader said he respected the right of socialist countries to go capitalist.

"If a socialist country wants to build capitalism, its right to do this has to be respected," said Castro, dressed in formal military attire.

He added: "But there also has to be respect for those countries which want to build socialism."

The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the defeat of the leftist Sandinistas in Nicaragua's elections have left Cuba looking more isolated politically.

But Castro, revelling in the role of international political showman, rebutted suggestions by critics that Cuba is not democratic.

Castro said Cuba's elections were "more democratic than those of other countries."

"No one elected the Queen of England. She inherited her position," he said.

Castro defended the right of his government to ban publications which the Cuban authorities considered "counter-revolutionary."

After Brasilia, Castro is due to visit Brazil's two biggest cities, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Castro said his three-decade-old communist government doesn't need to be tested with a popular vote, declaring, "You don't play with the revolution."

Asked by reporters if he could win a direct election with other candidates, the Cuban President said: "It would be foolishness to have a test only to prove wrong those who say Cuba holds fraudulent elections."

"Our system isn't direct, it's indirect, but in my judgement very democratic," said Castro, who has ruled Cuba since the 1959 revolution.

He said he felt "repugnance" for the electoral system in the United States, which he called "a parody."

His comments appeared to be in response to US Vice-President Dan Quayle, who on Thursday asked "anyone who is in contact with Castro to ask him when he's going to have elections." Quayle also attended the Collor's inauguration.

US spy satellite hardware falling

WASHINGTON, March 17.

(AP): The Defence Department has reported that "hardware elements" carried into orbit by space shuttle Atlantis last month are expected to fall from the sky soon.

A terse statement said only that the mission "achieved its goal in association with a classified DOD programme."

Atlantis was launched Feb 28 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on a secret military mission that, sources said, included the launch of a sophisticated spy satellite.

The statement Friday did not mention a satellite.

"Hardware elements are expected to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere," the statement said. "We believe there is no risk to life or property."

Pete Williams, the Defence Department spokesman, would

not say where or when the hardware elements would plunge back toward the Earth and what portions might be expected to survive intact.

Atlantis' 4.5-day mission carried the shuttle farther to the north than any previous shuttle flight. NASA sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said that path enabled the astronauts to release a spy satellite that would overfly areas of the Soviet Union that had never before been observed by a shuttle-launched satellite.

Sources said the satellite was a \$500-million craft capable of taking high resolution photos and eavesdropping on electronic communications over much of the world.

The Defence Department, however, declined to confirm or deny these reports.

New civilian council in Haiti installed

PORT-AU-PRINCE, March 17.

(Reuters): Haiti's new interim president yesterday installed 11 members of a civilian council of state charged with ruling the impoverished Caribbean nation until elections can be held.

"The moment in which the country is living is more than serious, it is grave," Dr Louis Roy, spokesman for the 19-member council of state said at the swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace. "Public security is threatened, the peace of the people must be restored."

The council of state headed by Haiti's first woman president, Supreme Court Justice Ertha Trouillot, took power from the military on Tuesday, three days after former military president Prosper Avril resigned.

Avril flew into US exile on Monday. His successor, army chief Major General Gerard Abraham, handed over power the following day.

Brathwaite sworn in as Grenada premier

ST GEORGE'S, March 17. (Reuters): Career civil servant Nicholas Brathwaite was sworn in yesterday as prime minister of Grenada, ending a political deadlock and dashing the leadership hopes of eccentric former prime minister Sir Eric Gairy.

Brathwaite, 64, had guided the Caribbean Island nation for a year following the US-led military invasion in 1983. Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon appointed Brathwaite, whose National Democratic Congress (NDC) Party had come closest to gaining a majority in the 15-strong parliament by winning seven seats.

"I had allowed a great deal of time for the political parties to get together and make up their minds. I must now act," said Scoon, who represents the British crown in Grenada, an independent member of the Commonwealth.

The tiny nation's government had been in limbo since Tuesday, when the second general elections held since the 1983 invasion produced deadlock among four centrist parties.

Sir Eric Gairy, who lost his own race for re-election, surprised political analysts when he seized upon the splintered vote to try to broker a ruling majority drawn from three parties.

Gairy, 68, is remembered by many Grenadians for his "Mongoose Gang," a secret police which punished political enemies when he was prime minister. He was deposed by Marxists in 1979 while in New York to appeal to the United Nations to investigate unidentified flying objects.

Brathwaite briefly led Grenada after US troops ended the island's flirtation with the Marxist government.

He was sworn in at the governor-general's brick Georgian mansion, not far from the prison where 14 men are awaiting execution for the murder of leftist leader Maurice Bishop.

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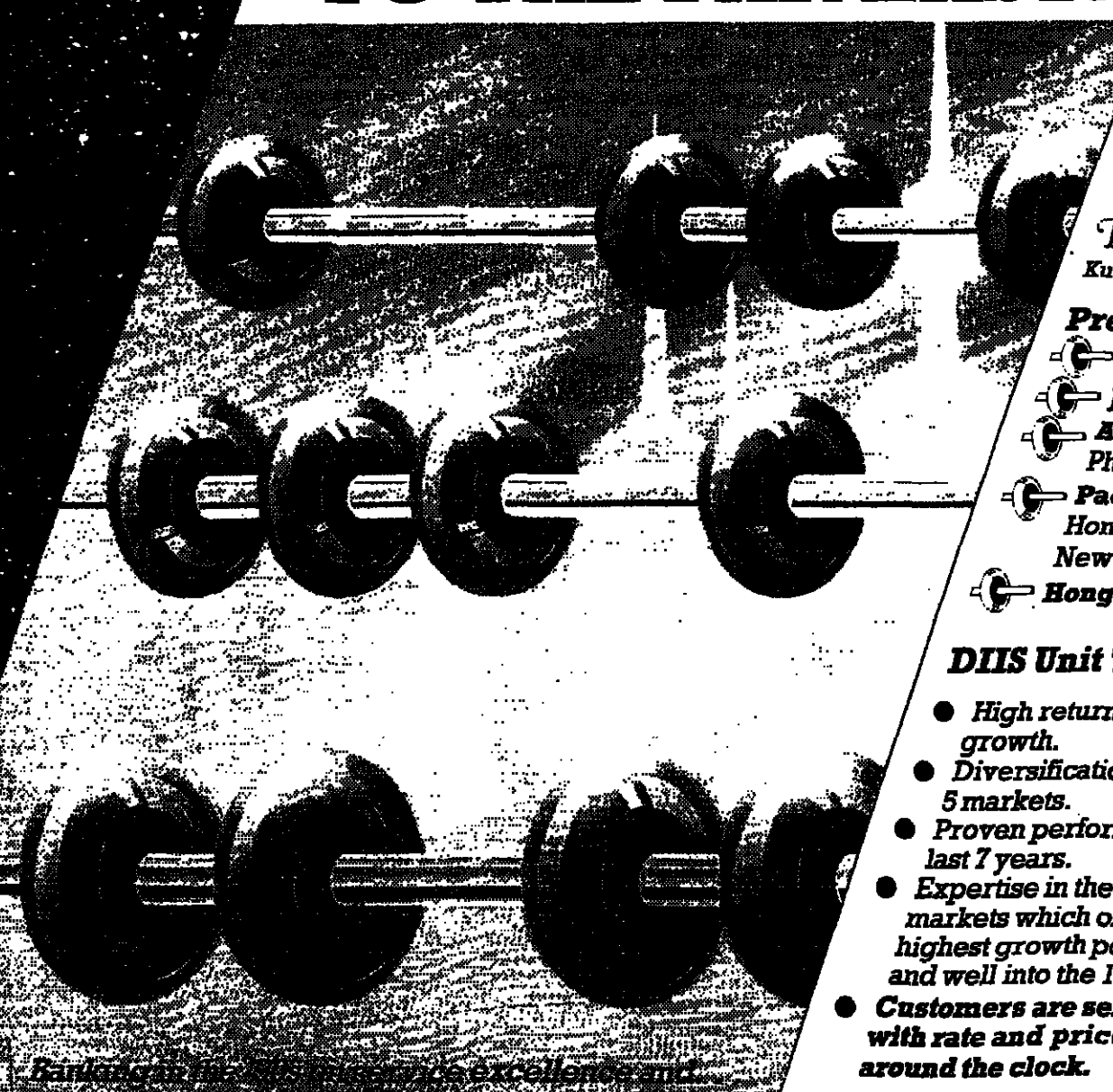
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KUWAIT ... GULF

Shuwaikh market operations being streamlined

Adequate portage services

ABOUT 3,000 workers and customers gather daily at the Fruit and Vegetable Market at the Al Shuwaikh Area and queries have been raised as to whether the Kuwait Municipality has been successful in extending the necessary facilities and if the necessary organisational measures had been adopted to keep abreast with the progress achieved in different fields in the country.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of merchants and workers.

Fuad Jumrah, the project manager at Al Shuwaikh Vegetable Market said the handling constitutes a basic element in the market — both for customers and

merchants. He added that the company entrusted with providing such services, is keen to provide adequate workers with tools at token charges for undertaking portage services.

Recreation

He admitted that in the past, the market was disorganised and charges were above permissible levels, but confirmed that with the institution of a special apparatus of control, market operations have been streamlined. However, he commented that the market is still in need of developing its handling services with the use of enhanced handling, loading and unloading technology.

The official praised the co-operation

level among personnel of the customs department, Kuwait Municipality and the Consumers Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He disclosed that authorities are currently studying the possibility of establishing recreational facilities for children at the market.

All equipment for these recreational games have been imported and is awaiting adequate sites being provided by Kuwait Municipality, the official said.

Meanwhile, Taha Tawfeek, a merchant at the market said that the movement in the market is sluggish. He cited sheds one and three which deal on a wholesale basis as being at a low level of

activity due to the absence of big merchants. Conversely, he said that shed No. 2 is active as it deals with Lebanese, Turkish and Jordanian products. Movement is relatively active in shed No. 1, particularly between 12.00 noon and 3.00 pm — after the closure of shed No. 2. He clarified that the Kuwaiti output is mainly concentrated at shed No. 4 which remains open all day long.

Re-activation

Also commenting on the issue of sheds, Ahmed Okaz, a Turkish merchant described sales movement at shed No. 1 as poor and said that 80 per cent of this shed's goods are subject to damage. He called on Ministry of Commerce and

Industry officials to show more flexibility in dealing with merchants in order to reactivate the market.

He pointed out that there are a lot of onion sacks lying for over a period of four months in shed No. 1 which has resulted in losses estimated at over KD10,000.

Another merchant identified as Ramadhan Ghaid said that the volume of sales of the Fruit and Vegetable Market had dropped by 50 per cent and attributed this phenomenon to the setting up of branches for the Kuwait Agricultural Product Company at each co-operative society which sell at competitive prices.

Turn from the grave

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

MALCOLM FORBES, the late millionaire publisher, rose out from his grave last week to brighten the day of his employees. The tycoon mandated in his will that all those who borrowed \$10,000 from the company, Forbes Inc., will not have to pay back.

Take it and enjoy it, was the message from the Hamby proponent of capitalism.

I was greatly moved by this act of generosity, the message because I know that we have many tycoons, that can at any time match if not Forbes' business acumen then extravagance and match if not Forbes' business acumen then extravagance and match if not Forbes' business acumen then extravagance.

Yet, the matter is not that simple. It could be that generosity is not one of the traits of Forbes' character, but that he arrived via a particular event or encounter in his exciting life.

So where does it come from? My first guess was that the sympathy for his employees somehow linked to the high flyer's dangerous living. The higher he flew the quicker he realised how pitiable are those down below. Mind you, some especially smart tycoons I know tell me they not have to fly to learn that.

But Forbes did, and in the process he set six world records: hot-air ballooning. He flew coast-to-coast in the US and then went to China to fly over Beijing. Now, we have many high-flyers here who give us a lot of hot air. And I know many employees who would send their tycoons flying if that would bring them losses increments.

Amnesty

But if it is not ballooning it must have been Elizabeth Taylor. That woman would get any tycoon to part with some of his wealth. It could be that she was by his side when he reached his amnesty decision. I am sure she could relieve other tycoons of equal efficiency and there would be no shortage of volunteers sponsor her. But considering that her schedule must be pretty tight some newer talent would do as a substitute.

Then a very pleasing thought crossed my mind. It could be people in Forbes' line of business are invested with a special qualities complete with munificence to those who help them to and maintain their empires. But I promptly discarded the thought. I know some mini-magnates who do not believe in loans, grant them that is.

When they give a loan it is bad rather than good news. What means is that someone in your family kicked the bucket and wages are not enough to cover the airfare to take you to funeral. There was a time though when these magnates used approve loans to their employees. The pitfall there was that after you had repaid the debt they kept on deducting the KPI from your salary.

But the generosity one sees in Kuwait is enough to make even spender like Forbes turn in his grave. Just take the latest episode of the debt settlement saga. All so-called small investors who had then a quarter of a million dinars will give what they have, what they don't will be written off. In the process the big investors who acted as guarantors of the small investors and the bank who at best displayed an error of judgement when they approved certain loans, will be let off the hook. Eat your heart out Forbes.

Rules clarified

Haj caravans

THE Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Pilgrimage and Mosques Affairs is continuing its ongoing efforts to complete formalities of providing licences to citizens who desire to undertake the running of pilgrimage caravans for the coming pilgrimage season.

Speaking on the issue, Abdul Rahman Al Fares, assistant undersecretary of the ministry said that 66 caravans carrying about 30,000 pilgrims will be undertaking the journey to the holy lands this year. From this number, 42 will go to Al Madina Al Munawwarah and then proceed to Makkah and the balance 24 will be travelling on directly to Makkah.

The official said that caravan owners should ensure that their passengers are in possession of valid health cards issued by the Health Ministry and that owners

should adhere to the timetable of departure and arrival of the ministry. Owners should also ensure that the luggage of pilgrims travelling in their respective caravans do not contain any prohibited materials. The list and nationality of the pilgrims should be clearly written on the outside and also inside the baggage. Owners have been called upon to ensure that they are present at Sabai Border Camp with lists of names of their pilgrims 12 hours before departure of their caravans.

Fares said that caravans will go to Al Madina first, being leaving on Tuesday morning — 12.6.1990 in groups of caravans will leave to Makkah directly will begin leaving on the morning of 20.6.1990 in groups. The last group of caravans scheduled to leave the country on 23.6.1990, the official said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir today sent a cable of congratulations to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for his election as executive president of the USSR.

Education meeting

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): Specialists from the seven Arab Gulf states today started here a meeting at the Arab Centre for Educational Research to discuss unification of the English curriculum in their countries.

The four-day meeting was inaugurated by Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari.

Editors received

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today received at his office chief editors of Arabiat Magazine Yasser Hiwari and Al Sahaf Magazine published in the United States Hassan Hamiya.

UAE envoy

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber today received at his office UAE's ambassador to Kuwait, on the occasion of ending his mission here.

Industrial bids

A LOCAL company invited international bids for the import of industrial material for its resin industries and received the lowest offer from a West German firm.

The tender was awarded to the firm at a price of \$850 per ton and a total amount of US\$850,000 was paid to the supplier.

Great was the surprise when the local firm received huge containers, which on opening revealed the entire cargo as mere soil.

Ensuing investigations have revealed that the supplier was a non-existent company. Upon cashing the full value of the cargo, left West Germany for an unidentified destination.

Wedding response

ACCORDING to a statistical report issued by the Ministry of Justice, four Kuwaiti women acted in response to the HH the Crown Prince's call and accepted to marry without a cash dowry or a future payment.

The women accepted to marry Kuwaiti citizens in response to the call to reduce high dowries in a bid to sort out the problem of spinsterhood in the country which had of late escalated beyond control.

Twenty other Kuwaiti women said yes to tying the knot with Kuwaiti men for dowries below KD1 and they currently lead successful married lives.

Irish cable

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir today sent a cable of congratulations to the Irish president on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Chinese visit

DOHA, March 17, (Kuna): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived here Wednesday on an official visit, the first since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1983.

The Chinese visitor told reporters at the airport that he will discuss many issues of bilateral interest.

Donation to Soviets

MOSCOW, March 17, (Kuna): It was announced here Wednesday that Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Soviet Union Abdelmohsin Al Duaij has donated five thousand dollars from his personal account to support a Soviet social fund.

Tass news agency said Duaij wanted to display the excellent relations between the Soviet Union and Kuwait when he donated the money for the International Soviet Fund for Families with many children.

With this donation, Duaij has become the first diplomat in Moscow to support the activities of this newly formed humanitarian organisation, according to Tass.



Sheikh Duaij and Zayyati inaugurating the nursery.



Guests inspecting flowers and vegetables at the nursery.

Duaij inaugurates Abdalli nursery

Farmers' efforts lauded

ABDALLI'S modern nursery for plants and trees was inaugurated Thursday by the head of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah.

The inauguration was attended by the Tunisian Undersecretary for Farming, Husni Al Zayyati, his accompanying delegation, local press reporters and other dignitaries who were taken on an organised tour of a number of farms in Abdalli area.

On conclusion of the tour, Sheikh Duaij stressed the importance of agriculture as a part of the food security plans and underscored the sufferings of farmers through weather fluctuations, blights and other related adverse conditions.

He commended the efforts exerted by farmers in developing and improving this vital sector

and said that every assistance should be provided to enhance the agriculture sector in the country.

The official expressed optimism towards Kuwait's agricultural future and added that the authority will spare no efforts in backing up farmers and citizens in order to develop this vital sector.

Projects

Sheikh Duaij expressed his optimism that a large number of citizens will enter the agricultural field by investing their funds in this highly productive and essential sector. He stated that scientific developments and modern agricultural methods should all be mobilised to overcome adverse weather conditions in the country.

The official disclosed that the authority had drawn up a large number of projects within the framework of its next five-year plan. These projects include establishing three stations for agricultural experiments in Wafra, Abdalli and Kabad, in addition to constructing a central laboratory and Animal Health Centre. Further, the authority will also establish a modern fish farm, the produce of which will be distributed among residents at symbolic prices.

He added that an agreement was signed for a new development plan for establishing a central building for the authority and a zoo in Shadadiya area with a total area of 800,000 square meters. Sheikh Duaij stated that establishing the zoo will be a highlight of the authority's future plans and another touristic and educational project will also be established.

The head of the authority praised the Tunisian expertise in the agricultural field in general and with palm agriculture in particular. He indicated that during his visit to Tunis, he signed an agreement to exchange expertise in this field and announced that the Tunisian afforestation director is currently visiting the country to familiarise himself with Kuwait's plans in the field of afforestation.

Speaking on the nursery just inaugurated, Sheikh Duaij said that it will have a production capacity of 100,000 seedlings a year which are intended to be distributed among citizens. He added that an equivalent nursery will be established by the authority at Wafra area during the next five-year plan.

15,970 orphans supported

Zakat House

THE manager of the Orphan-support Project at Kuwait Zakat House Jassem Al Kandari has said that the project is being implemented through 79 Islamic agencies and institutions in 32 Muslim and Arab countries.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the project, founded in mid October 1983, supported 15,970 orphans in 29 different countries, and that the project was financed by 11,853 sponsors, 1,201 of them from outside Kuwait.

He said that the total amount of money collected in support of the Orphan-support Project over the last year alone was KD1,108,926, adding that the beneficiaries from this project were 1,665 orphans in Egypt, 769 in Palestine, 1,453 in the Sudan, 1,996 in Afghanistan and 1,797 in Bangladesh.

Skills

He said that under this project, 8 orphanages had so far been built in Palestine, Bangladesh, India and the Philippines, besides five others currently under construction in Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan and Ceylon.

He pointed out that the projects and enterprises launched by the house in support of orphans had so far counted 12 in each of Lebanon, Pakistan, Bahrain, the Philippines, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Senegal and India, adding that these projects include the

provision of rice farms, fish farms, pharmaceutical and medical needs, and others.

He said that other projects managed by the house in support of orphans include the orphans rehabilitation project, under which unproductive orphans are trained in various vocational skills to enable them to find decent jobs and turn productive.

He said that co-ordination was under way with four charity agencies inside Kuwait on the orphan-support project, which included the African Muslims Committee through which orphans in the Sudan and Kenya were offered aid, the Society for the Revival of Islamic Heritage through which support and aid was offered to orphans in the Ivory Coast and Senegal and the Palestine-Lebanon Support Committee through which aid was given to orphans in Palestine and Lebanon and the Islamic International Charity Organisation and Asian Muslim Committee through which orphanages were built in Indonesia.

He paid tribute to the co-operation rendered by the Ministry of Communications in agreeing to print stamps especially dedicated to the orphan support project lauding the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Information in carrying out radio and TV interviews aimed at shedding light on this project and urging donors all over the region to contribute to the funding of this project.

MPH survey

IN A procedural measure deemed as the first of its kind in the Ministry of Public Health, the Undersecretary, Dr Naeel Al Nageeb conducted a survey among nurses working in the administrative field at the ministry's hospitals.

A local daily quoting the Director of the Nursing Department, Meriam Al Raqam said that this step has been instituted as the ministry's officials concluded that a number of nurses at the ministry had abandoned their main line of activity and were now involved in administrative jobs.

The official said: "The return of these nurses to their nursing professions will relatively cover the shortage of nurses presently being experienced in the ministry's hospitals." She went on to add that some Asian nurses were considering Kuwait to be a transit station to America after they had gained the needed training and experience from Kuwait.

The survey was conducted at the following six hospitals: Al Sabah, Al Amiri, Mubarak, Al Adan, Al Jahra and Al Farwaniya. A total of 101 nurses have been identified as performing administrative jobs out of a total of 3,000 nurses.

Pharmaceutical industry being developed: Saffoori

THE local ministry-sponsored pharmaceutical industry in Shuwaikh is able to provide 12 per cent of the total requirements of the ministry for tablets, capsules, creams, ointments, suppositories, drops and disinfectant solutions.

Dr Saleh Al Saffoori, manager of the factory told Al Seyassah that thanks to the continued support and attention of the minister and senior ministry officials the factory is progressing steadily.

He highlighted the importance of combining local efforts to contribute to the government's plans to achieve pharmaceutical security, stressing that this would not be possible until the local pharmaceutical industries could meet 70 per cent of the local demand for medications.

He pointed out that since the establishment of the factory, the performance and work levels were being refined steadily to be continually able to step up and develop output to meet high international standards and cover as much as possible of the country's demand for locally-produced medicine.

He added that the local pharmaceutical products had many advantages as these were manufactured to resist the local weather conditions, meet social requirements and have a longer shelf life.

Saffoori said that problems facing the pharmaceutical industries here and in other Arab countries included the unavailability of the raw materials, lack of consistent planning scheme to foil international attempts at pharmaceutical monopoly, absence of complementary industries, such as plastic, carton, aluminium and others, absence of pharmaceutical research centres, need to unify industrialisation standards co-operation to issue a unified Arab law to govern the produce of pharmaceutical industries and the establishment of a higher authority which would endorse the local use of locally produced or imported pharmaceutical products.

Governorate councils not legislature, says Saleh

THE chairman of the Hawalli Governorate Council Dawood Mused Al Saleh has said that the governorate councils are basically technical and not legislative councils whose formation was originally endorsed by the National Assembly in 1983.

He told a local daily that these councils were not a substitute to the National Assembly, as it is being said in diwanias. These councils were available in most advanced countries of the world which contained parliamentary councils, such as the US, Britain and others.

The councils of local government and neighbourhood differed considerably from legislative councils, as the former operated at the level of the local area, whereas the parliamentary councils were operating as legislative and control bodies over all state organs, the official said.

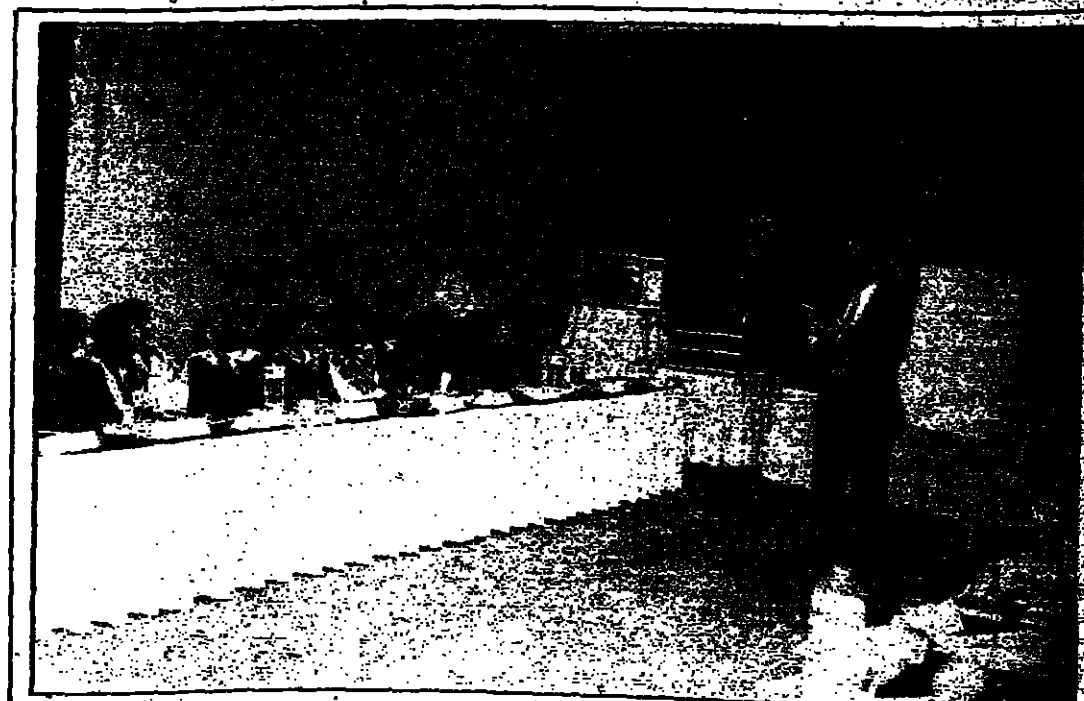
He referred to the Amiri decree on the formation of the governorate councils which defined the functions and objectives of these councils. These included the co-ordination with the governor in the field of economic and social development for each governorate, and supervision of all activities implemented within the framework of national development plans through the identification of the needs of each governorate and work to meet its requirements within the limits of available budget.

The councils also ensured the provision of needed public services to citizens, discussed their problems to find effective solutions, organised religious, educational, social, sports, cultural and health activities, and deepened the sense of responsibility and national belonging, the governor said.

Rs 5m for mosque

ISLAMABAD, March 17, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti philanthropist has donated a sum of rupees five million for building a mosque in the premises of the under-construction Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi City, an official press release said here today.

The name of the philanthropist was not disclosed in the press release.



Estee Lauder training seminar

Estee Lauder in conjunction with Supply & Building Co., recently held a two-day seminar at the International Hotel. The first seminar was led by Peter Thiel, manager of training and special events who introduced the techniques in make-up, skin care and treatments to many beauty consultants and sales staff from stores around Kuwait. On the second day Ms Eleni Kourti, field sales training manager, gave advice on Estee Lauder products — different fragrances for both ladies and men. Above, Peter Thiel conducting the seminar.

LANCOPOLIS

MOC aims to simplify telephone procedures

Strict penalties for nuisance calls

THE assistant undersecretary for subscribers' services at the Ministry of Communications (MOC), Khaled Abdul Latif Al Houti said that its policy aims primarily at simplifying telephone connection procedures and that all applications will be processed at the same centre.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that a study is being carried out at the ministry to decide on the cancellation of the reconnection fee of KD5. To further provide facilities to subscribers, the introduction of the public auto-card overseas calling service will be introduced at the MOC's different exchange offices. This facility will also be of help in reducing crowds at the

MOC's different exchange offices who are presently overwhelmed with requests for long distance calls.

The official said that work is underway to set up two new exchange offices — one in Quraish and the other in West Fintas. Additional facilities will be constructed during the MOC's 1990-95 five-year plan. These would include offices in Salwa, South Surrah and Sabhan.

A special committee has been formed at the ministry to look into subscriber complaints and requests to study overbilling. Field visits will be conducted by the committee to sort out any existing interference of subscriber lines that might be responsi-

ble for such overbilling. Overseas calls will be made to the concerned countries at the ministry's expenses to determine the cause of subscribers' complaints.

The official said that a total of 500 subscribers have requested authorities to place their lines under surveillance because of recurrent harassing calls. Subscribers can apply for this service at their local police station and surveillance will be undertaken by the Interior Ministry personnel or by the local exchange office.

He added that those found responsible for harassing others, will have their services disconnected, pay a fine and provide a written pledge not to make any

nuisance calls in the future.

All complaints are thoroughly investigated and should the culprits be found to be ministry personnel strict measures will be instituted.

The official said that a total of 150 subscribers had applied for secret numbers and commented that these numbers are leaked only through the relatives or friends of the subscribers.

He added that subscribers failing to pay their overdue bills would be notified twice, failing which the service will be disconnected. After which, if the bills still remained unpaid the issue would be placed in the jurisdiction of the court.

First TT baby in Bahrain

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times staff

BAHRAIN'S medical history recorded a unique event, Friday, with the birth of the first test-tube baby in the country at the Bahrain Defence Force Hospital (BDFH).

The baby, a Bahraini girl, was born at 9.30 am and weighed 2kg and 620 grammes. Hospital sources reported that the infant was delivered by Caesarean section by Dr Nabil Riskalla, consultant and head of the in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) unit at the BDFH Hospital. Both the baby and her mother are said to be in fine condition.

Meanwhile, three more test-tube babies are expected to be born in the next few weeks.

Bahrain became the first country in the region to set up an IVF Unit which opened in May last year. But at a cost of BD100,000 the unit is a joint project of the BDFH Hospital and the Arabian Gulf University.

Gulf surprise

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti diplomat has described the recent Iranian memorandum to official Bahraini departments and embassies in Manama requesting the change of any reference to the Gulf to the Persian Gulf as "surprising" and added it had led to strong reaction.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Faisal Al Hajj, speaking to a local daily, said the memo, which was titled by the words "The United Nations, is not an official UN decision because it is not sealed or sanctioned by the UN."

He indicated if the memo was a UN decision then "the UN is the only authorised party to distribute it."

Diplomatic missions in Manama had received official messages from the Bahraini foreign ministry banning them from addressing or circulating any memos to various circles in Bahrain without notifying the ministry before hand, the ambassador added.

Haji praised Kuwait-Bahrain relations describing them as "solid". He condemned the Soviet Jewish migration to the occupied Arab lands, describing the Jews influx as a "Zionist scheme" to displace the remaining Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to achieve the Zionist dream of greater Israel.

League rumours

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): Tunisia's Embassy here today denied as baseless rumours the press reports which claimed that there had been differences among the member states of the Arab Maghreb Union on shifting the headquarters of the Arab League from Tunis to Cairo as decided by the Arab Foreign Ministers early this month.

In a press release the embassy said the compromise worked out by the Arab foreign ministers council has been the fruit of intensive efforts and consultations that took place in a sincere fraternal atmosphere.



Strongman competition

The Messilah Beach Club witnessed the unique 'Strongman' competition where strong athletes competed in events ranging from judo to truck towing. Winston cigarettes, always encouraging such events co-sponsored the show. Some of the 'Strongmen' appear in the photograph.



Subbiya plaque unveiled

Minister of Electricity and Water Dr. Homoud Al Rqbah yesterday unveiled a plaque commemorating the laying of the foundation stone at the new Subbiya power station. The new power and water desalination station will begin operation in 1992. It is designed to produce a maximum of 2,400 MW of electricity. It is expected to supply the new proposed city of Subbiya, north of Kuwait.

Expanding horizons

US space centre to zero in on talented youngsters

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AMERICAN science experts have called on all youngsters to take a keen interest in the various sciences and improve their skills through close practical involvement with science centres and clubs.

The supervisor of the Howard Owens Science Centre, Winnie Wooley stressed the extreme importance of science centres and urged for the inclusion of a larger number of gifted youngsters and students who have yet to demonstrate an active interest in involving themselves with the scientific activities of these scientific institutes.

Wooley said that many talented youngsters are identified by the tests they take, or being specially selected on the basis of the performance in their experiments conducted in science centres.

The Director of Education for Space Science Education, Richard Methia, said that the centre is certainly looking for these promising youngsters that have the spark and in co-operation with Nasa are looking forward to develop the scientific acumen of these promising youngsters. He disclosed that an international facility will be opened within the coming three years and the centre along with Nasa will target those youngsters who are really sharp in the sciences.

In relation to the needs of a science city, Wooley said that the most advanced equipment is essential and that state-of-the-art technology and



Winnie Wooley

facilities are a prerequisite for youngsters to address the various facets of today's scientific problems and dimensions.

Methia stressed on the importance of youngsters understanding the ethical dimensions of these problems and the fact that technology can be used for good or bad in addition to instilling a high-level of technological consciousness in these upcoming scientists.

Wooley and Methia fielding questions from Kuwait, Qatar and Egypt on the US government Worldnet Broadcast, welcomed those interested in joining programmes and obtaining information and materials to forward their queries to the centres.

The Howard Owens Science Centre is a Maryland funded education facility designed to help students to improve their scientific skills. The centre provides students from all over the region with the opportunity for hands on experimentation in the field of physics, biology and space science. The centre is also one of the first Challenger learning centres. The centre has been developed to honour the US astronaut killed in the space shuttle Challenger, and was designed to permit students to simulate a shuttle launch and to perform any of the innumerable tasks required during a manned shuttle operation.

The Challenger Centre for Space Science Education includes distance learning programmes, teachers training the centre's national faculty and curriculum development.

Owens Centre helps students improve their science skills and Challenger Learning Centre located at Owens Centre opened a year ago



Richard Methia

simulates a space environment and both centres work in conjunction with each other.

Wooley said that programmes offered to youngsters at the Owens Centre is to expand the horizon of gifted students.

About the translation of Challenger Centre material into Arabic, Methia said "This is the very issue indicated two years ago by Prince Sultan Bin Salman to the Challenger family members who visited him when he indicated interest to possibly offer funding to the translation."

About the centre's contribution to local industries on medium and long-term basis, Wooley said that this helps youngsters to build up a level of commitment that will sustain and support that kind of endeavour. This is intended as every nation needs industrial expansion, and also is intended to provide opportunities of literacy of scientific technology to support local industries.

On the issue of funding the centres, Wooley said that the Owens Centre is a part of the public school budget and Methia commented that the base support for Challenger Centre comes from the US Congress and is also strongly supported by foundations within the US, in addition to general public support.

Both officials praised the level of commitment of teachers at Challenger programmes, in addition to which there are 75 active members at Challenger faculty who give workshops on weekends, the officials said.

Speaking of the physically handicapped, Wooley said that Owens Centre is completely accessible, where there are ramps, wheelchairs and elevators — so no place in the centre is off limits to these students and participants.

Kheiran masterplan completed: Sheikh Ali

THE state has allocated KD100 million for expropriation purposes in the present fiscal year and within the framework of the expropriation activities, the committee for public interests held its first meeting and issued decisions to expropriate some real estate that should be removed to carry out public projects in different areas of Kuwait.

Speaking on the issue, the acting director general of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali said that the preliminary value of these real estates totalled KD54 million, leaving a balance in the expropriation budget for this year of KD46 million.

The official said that the municipality has finalised the masterplan of Kheiran City, while Subbiya City project is still being studied. He added that the municipality began a plan to maintain and beautify buildings in different areas ten months ago. Initially work began with buildings at the Capital, Hawait and Salmiya areas and it has been observed that the plan in any area takes about 8 to 12 months to be implemented — depending on the response of landlords to the plan. About 165 buildings in Kuwait are in need of maintenance and to have new facades, the official said.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah pointed out that the municipality is undertaking a study in co-operation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research on the feasibility of closing shops in model areas. The municipal affairs committee extended the period of closure to one year. Several extensions had also previously been granted to owners of these shops to permit them adequate time to find substitute shops in considering that this was the source of livelihood and hoped that the study will achieve public interests.

He pointed out that the municipality conducted in-depth studies to provide utilities at the five governorates such as: vegetables markets, slaughterhouses, co-operatives, cattle markets, nurseries and bird markets. A study has been forwarded to the municipal affairs committee to allocate lands for these utilities.

Speaking on the employment level at the municipality, the official said that after contracting with local private cleanliness companies to carry out cleanliness works at housing areas in the fiscal year 1985/1986, the municipality dismissed 3,709 workers. He added that the municipality will study the status of other workers after handling all housing areas to the care of cleanliness companies.

Sheikh Sabah denied that some inspectors of the municipality demand bribes from owners of shops to exempt them from violations and added that complaints can be filed in this respect with the food and shop licences department at the municipality. Investigations will be instituted to ensure that justice is done, the official said.

He added that inspectors are forbidden to shop during their official working hours, to avoid any conflict of interest. Those found shopping during these hours could be prosecuted for receiving bribes.

He went on to state that the municipality has increased the numbers of food inspectors at the vegetables market in Shuwaik, Jahra and Rigga. It has also organised a specialised training course for them in co-operation with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

BAYADER AL SALEM Women's Society, in co-operation with the Environment Protection Council organised a seminar on health and educational aspects of housemaids on children.

Speaking at the seminar on the occasion of the ideal governorate week, Dr Mai Al Galal, head of Adailiya Health Centre referred to the positive role of the baby-sitter when she had been selected after a careful study.

She commented that the baby-sitter should be of good moral character and preferably from the same religion so as to play her role towards enhancing the Islamic awareness among the children and



Amir receives Heptullah

HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received at his office at Bayan Palace yesterday envoy of the Indian prime minister and Deputy Chairman of the Upper House Dr Najma Heptullah.

Dr Heptullah conveyed a message to HH the Amir from the Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

The meeting was attended by Acting Foreign Minister, Undersecretary Faisal Saleh Al Mutawa and the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Arun Kumar Budhiraja.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah also received in audience at Bayan Palace deputy chairman of India's Upper House Dr Najma Heptullah and her accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Acting Foreign Minister, Undersecretary Faisal Al Saleh Al Mutawa and the Indian ambassador to Kuwait.

Organ procurement law ineffective, says Abouna

Patients dying for lack of organs

By Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

THE Ministry of Public Health should be more strict with doctors who do not report deaths to Hamad Al Essa Kidney and Organ Transplant Centre, said Dr George Abouna, head of the centre and head of Organ Transplant Department at Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine.

"We have one of the best laws in the world concerning organ procurement. It requires doctors to report all deaths to the centre so that we could ask the family of the deceased for permission to harvest his/her organs. But sadly enough, doctors do not co-operate with us," stated Abouna.

"Last year, only eight out of 320 deaths caused by road accidents were reported to the centre. Four families out of these eight gave us permission to use the organs of their deceased relatives. This is a very good percentage which tells us that people want to help others," he added.

Abouna stated that the problem lies more in the attitudes of doctors towards organ donation rather than those of people. He called on the ministry to reward doctors who report death cases and penalise those who don't. "Colleagues from Saudi Arabia who participated in the 2nd International Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplants told us that such a system has proven very successful in Saudi."

Policies

He also called on managers of hospitals and health districts to meet with their staff and explain in depth the policies of the ministry concerning organ procurement because doctors do not usually read new laws and regulations. "We invited local doctors to attend our conference but very few came," Abouna



George Abouna ... disappointed

lamented.

"If we manage to get organs from 30 per cent of those who die in accidents every year, we will be able to perform all the needed transplants in Kuwait," he added. "It is heart-breaking to know that during the last 10 years, we got permission to procure organs only from 7 cadavers out of 4,700 people who died in road accidents."

Abouna explained that organs from one dead person could help at least seven living people. "We have 14 people waiting for liver transplants. Patients, among them kids, are dying every month for lack of organs."

"Participants at the conference were very impressed with the centre when they visited it,

but what good are all these facilities and technologies if we do not have organs to transplant," asked Abouna.

Transplant facts

■ The University of Wisconsin Solution that was developed by the university two years ago permits the preservation of a kidney for four days, and the preservation of a pancreas or a liver for 30 hours, the thing that avails surgeons and patients more time for physical and psychological preparation for the operation.

— Kidneys procured from children can be transplanted in adults with the rate of success of 65 per cent. Sixteen such operations have been performed in Kuwait.

— Kidney transplants could be as successful at the age of 60 as at the age of 20 or 30.

— The rate of success of liver transplants is 80 per cent compared to 40 per cent six years ago, thanks to developments in organ preservation and tissue typing.

— Liver cancer seems to recur in recipients of transplanted livers who lost their own livers to the malignant tumour. Research is ongoing to find out why this happens.

— 3,000 pancreas transplants have been completed around the world, most of which in the US with a success rate of 70 per cent.

— In 10 years, surgeons expect to be able to transplant the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas rather than transplanting the whole organ.

— A new drug developed by the Japanese holds great promise in reducing the body's rejection of the transplanted organ. The drug which is expected to be on the market in a year has very few side effects.

Blind bemoan discrimination Many have lost hope

A LOCAL daily conducted a number of interviews with blind individuals to highlight their opinions on facilities provided to them by society in general.

The general consensus is that most employment doors are closed to them and therefore called for equal opportunities in line with normal individuals. They indicated that despite the fact that most jobs they apply for do not require eye sight, they are still refused employment. They also criticised society's attitude to marriages of the blind and called on officials of the National Housing Authority to reconsider their cases.

Chairman of the Society for the Blind Hamad Al Khaled stated that the society is considered a public charity organisation in the country. He added that since its inception, the objectives of the society mainly focus on integrating the blind with the general society and resolving their problems to ensure for them comfortable living conditions.

He indicated that the society has several activities including cultural and scientific activities. The society works towards creating a more sociable

atmosphere for its members and organises several internal and outside trips. The society sent a group of members to Bahrain to receive education on using the telephone and some of them have been employed at government authorities.

The main problem of the blind is obtaining suitable jobs and Dr Mdairis Al Rashidi speaking on the subject commented that this problem can be redressed by modifying the Civil Service Commission law which gives all individuals the right to a job — provided they are healthy.

Another blind person commented that due to the obstacles facing most blind individuals, they have lost hope. He said that when a blind individual proposes to marry a normal female, society looks down on the proposal and added that the rebuttal is even more severe when it relates to a blind female.

Ahmad Al Helwan, another blind individual called for equal opportunities for blind expatriates and added that expatriates who are blind are asked to leave the country when they reach the age of 21 due to the fact that they cannot be employed.

Women's society conduct symposium on effects of maids

BAYADER AL SALEM Women's Society, in co-operation with the Environment Protection Council organised a seminar on health and educational aspects of housemaids on children.

Speaking at the seminar on the occasion of the ideal governorate week, Dr Mai Al Galal, head of Adailiya Health Centre referred to the positive role of the baby-sitter when she had been selected after a careful study.

She commented that the baby-sitter should be of good moral character and preferably from the same religion so as to play her role towards enhancing the Islamic awareness among the children and

added that the role of the baby-sitter should complement that of the parents.

Speaking of the negative role of the housemaids, the official said that relevant statistics issued in 1984 and 1985 confirmed that direct negligence by housemaids had caused 118 poisoning cases from February 1984 to Feb 1985 and that 93 per cent of these cases were related to children under the age of five. She also said that there were documented cases of housemaids deliberately administering poison to children.

Harsh Iran measures against black marketeers

NICOSIA, March 17, (AP): Iran's judiciary will impose harsh measures against black marketeers, including the death penalty in the worst cases, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

Tehran radio quoted the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, as saying, "those who desecrate the blood of the martyrs by creating a black market should be dealt with harshly."

Yazdi said the decision to impose execution as a maximum penalty against "economic terrorists" was awaiting parliamentary approval, Iran reported.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said

Yazdi was talking to a group of ulema, or religious experts, in the city of Qom. It is the centre for theological studies in the Islamic Republic.

He said the "decisive and intensive" measures against the saboteurs of the economy would affect even those in governmental organisation.

The state-run radio quoted Yazdi as saying the judiciary will also deal sternly with those who do not follow Islamic codes, such as wearing the head cover known as hijab for women.

Meanwhile, Iran's former chief justice Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi Ardebili called on the Muslim people to abide by

the religious and ideological principles of Islam during the approach of Ramadan. The holy month of dusk-to-dawn fasting that starts in about 10 days.

Iran, which carried excerpts of his prayer speech in Tehran, said he advised Muslim women to remain veiled in public places especially during Ramadan.

Ardebili also commented on the economic situation, saying the "Islamic society cannot tolerate a community at which some people manage to amass wealth and others have hard time trying to make ends meet in their daily subsistence," according to Iran.

Large-scale protests against prices hikes, inflation, and shortages of consumer goods have recently been reported in Tehran and other major Iranian cities. Shortages in the state-controlled economy have created a raging black market in almost all consumer goods.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has been trying to overcome the soaring economic crisis since the Gulf war came to a halt in August 1988.

His government announced on March 4 the creation of 2 million new jobs in the framework of his five-year development plan to revive the economy and calm public discontent.

UN plan for Kabul refugees criticised

PESHAWAR, March 17, (AP): An ambitious UN programme to help Afghan refugees return home is being criticised by humanitarian workers and others who say it is too soon to encourage people to go back to the war-torn country.

There are 3.8 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and another 2 million in Iran. Most are holding off on returning to their homeland because of the continued fighting in Afghanistan.

"The prime reason refugees won't leave is still security," said a US diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sadrudin Aga Khan, co-ordinator of the UN's Refugee Repatriation Programme has appealed for more contributions from governments to meet a \$650 million fundraising target for this year.

Japan froze a \$43 million contribution, saying the money was being wasted since refugees were not yet returning home in large numbers.

UN official said the Sadrudin programme was "a bit of a false start."

"Donors have gradually become very sceptical about the likelihood of repatriation," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Almost two years ago, Sadrudin asked for \$1.2 billion in donations, saying hundreds of thousands of refugees would soon be flocking to Afghanistan.

But last year fewer than 100,000 refugees left Pakistan's crowded camps, where open sewers snake through a maze of mud-dirt huts and tents, to return to Afghanistan.

"And 100,000 is nothing when you have almost 4 million," said the US diplomat.

"Most of them say they will go when there is peace and security," said Pierce Gerety, deputy chief of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees mission in Islamabad. "They are afraid of the bombings, but they are also afraid of the complete lack of law and order in mujahideen-controlled areas."

US backed Muslim insurgents have been fighting successive communist governments in Kabul since a 1978 coup toppled Mohammad Daoud, a cousin of Afghanistan's ex-monarch.

They call themselves mujahideen, meaning Islamic "holy warriors," because they believe they are battling to safeguard Islam against an atheist government.

Several aid organisations, headquartered in Pakistan, and even the UN refugees mission, said Sadrudin has set his sights — and fundraising goals — too high.

"Repatriation (work) on a small scale is necessary, but, do we need \$1 billion? No," said Gerety. Another UN official suggested that small-scale repatriation and reconstruction projects would be better for the time being.

Fujio Samukawa, first secretary at the Japanese embassy in Islamabad, told the Associated Press that Japan froze its contribution because "nobody is going back to Afghanistan."

"Some of the projects were not being well conducted and it is too early to implement others," said Samukawa, who refused to elaborate.

Influx of Soviet Jews

OIC calls for tougher action

JEDDAH, March 17, (Agencies): Representatives of nine members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference met today to discuss urgent measures to counter mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and occupied Arab territories.

"The meeting should enable us to define urgent measures to be taken individually or collectively to counter the diabolical plan against the Islamic nation, the Palestinians and the Arab people of the Middle East," OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Gabid said in an opening speech.

The two-day meeting is attended by officials from Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria, Sierra Leone and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The 46-member OIC is the political umbrella for the world's estimated 1 billion Muslims.

Gabid accused Israel of exploiting liberalisation in Eastern Europe to move large numbers of Jews from the Soviet Union and settle them in Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The policy of assembling

Jews in occupied Palestine has become a basic element of Zionist strategy aimed at creating a greater Israel," he added.

He also accused Washington of facilitating the emigration of Jews to Israel by restricting their entry into the United States.

"The United States... refused to take these new immigrants and exerted pressure for direct airlinks between Moscow and Tel Aviv," he said.

Gabid added that the European Economic Community had taken the same attitude.

He said that successive Israeli governments have established a link between Jewish emigration and the relations between the two superpowers.

"They have increased their pressure on the Soviet Union so that it may authorise the emigration of Jews under the cover of human rights," he said.

"Strangely enough, they always made the free emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union one of the important issues in American-Soviet relations."

Gabid warned of the "grave consequences" of large-scale Jewish emigration from the

Soviet Union to Israel.

He said it would "create major upheavals in the region, change its demography, undermine Palestinian rights, lead to the confiscation of more Palestinian land, the setting up of more settlements and strengthen the Israeli military apparatus."

● In Amman, former US president Jimmy Carter, architect of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, criticised Israel yesterday for planning to settle Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territory.

"To the extent that the Israeli officials are using the Soviet Jewish immigration to populate the occupied territories, this is counter-productive, an impediment to peace and an unwarranted and inexcusable exploitation of the Soviet Jews," he told Jordanian parliamentarians.

● A US Jewish leader Shalom Comay urged Pope John Paul yesterday to make a bold gesture to help Middle East peace by recognising Israel and going to occupied Jerusalem as a peacemaker like former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat.

Shamir fights for his place

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 17, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dug in his heels today to fight for his place at the head of the right-wing Likud party after the collapse of his coalition government this week.

"I don't capitulate to ultimatums — not of rabbis, not of ministers and not of members of another party or of my own party," Shamir said in a radio interview.

Israel radio said Likud Members of Parliament would meet tonight to discuss Shamir's future and decide whether to back him to form a new coalition.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Deputy Prime Minister David Levy were candidates to succeed Shamir, the radio said.

Two lesser-known Likud members of Parliament, Reuven Rivlin and Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, were prodding Shamir to resign as head of the party after his break with the dovish Labour Party over proposed peace talks with Palestinians, the radio said.

Shamir's best-known rival, former general Ariel Sharon, resigned his ministerial post last month and said he would seek the Likud leadership but has not publicly called for Shamir's resignation since the government lost a confidence vote in Parliament on Thursday.

Members of Agudat Israel, one of the small religious parties that can tip the balance in Israel's search for a new coalition, say they will not back Likud as long as Shamir leads it because he does not honour promises.

"These loose votes don't make an impression on me," Shamir told Israel radio. "The one who will determine the leadership of the Likud is the Likud itself."

But he added: "I won't be angry if one day the Likud institutions convene and decide they have to change the leader. Nothing in politics is eternal."

Shamir has been blamed for losing the support of two swing religious parties in Parliament who helped the left-of-centre Labour Party to a 60 to 55 victory in the 120-member legislature in Thursday's vote.

The no confidence measure came after Shamir fired Labour leader Shimon Peres as vice-premier on March 13 and other Labour ministers quit in protest, in a dispute about US proposals for convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

No immediate decision was expected at tonight's Likud meeting, but the focus of discussion would be ways of persuading President Chaim Herzog to assign Likud the task of forming a new government, the radio said.

Herzog meets tomorrow with leaders of Likud with 40 seats in Parliament and Labour with 39 as he launches customary consultations with the parties before assigning a would-be prime minister to put together a ruling coalition.

Peres, a former premier, has been favoured by Israeli media to win the president's mandate in view of some newly acquired support from religious factions which combined with 15 seats held by left-wing parties could give him an edge over Likud in mustering a majority.



Lebanese Army soldiers search the trunk of a car yesterday at the entrance of Lebanon's Central Bank in Muslim west Beirut. The employees of the bank announced an open strike to protest against the foiled attempt to kidnap Edmond Naim, the governor of the bank. (Reuters wirephoto)

Row over attack on CB governor

Split in Hirawi cabinet

BEIRUT, March 17, (AP): President Elias Hrawi's government was divided today over a dispute between Interior Minister Elias Khazen and Central Bank governor Edmond Naim as rival Christian forces skirmished north of Beirut.

The independent An-Nahar daily said Hrawi was trying "to avoid an all-out split that could undermine" his 14-man, Syrian-backed government of Christians and Muslims.

It was formed in November to implement an Arab League-brokered peace plan to end the nearly 15-year-old civil war. Renegade Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces clashed with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the Kesroun province north of the capital. Police said two people were wounded.

That raised the overall casualty toll from more than six weeks of fighting between the Christian rivals to at least 758 killed and 2,109 wounded.

The fighting erupted Jan 30 as Aoun and the Lebanese Force chief Samir Geagea battled for control of the 310-square-mile (800 sq km) Christian enclave.

A ceasefire negotiated by neutral Christian mediators March 3 has silenced the big guns. But there have been repeated clashes and no progress toward working out a settlement between Aoun and Geagea.

Geagea has recognized Hrawi as head of state while Aoun has rejected his election Nov 24. He has thwarted Hrawi's peace efforts by rejecting the Arab League plan because it does not guarantee that Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon will withdraw.

Aoun, Geagea, Hrawi, Khazen and Naim are Maronite Catholics; the main Christian sect which has dominated the government, judiciary and army since independence from France in 1943.

Khazen Thursday sent a police squad to arrest Naim, 71. But guards at the Central Bank in Muslim west Beirut prevented them from seizing Naim.

The attempt led to a nationwide bank strike and paralyzed foreign exchange dealings. The Central Bank will maintain its open-ended strike until "the instigators are brought to trial," a statement by the 700 employees said. Private banks were scheduled to reopen Monday.

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A ceasefire negotiated by

Khazen ordered Naim's arrest for refusing to approve a payment of \$960,000 (\$1.5 million) to a London-based company, Thomas de la Rue, for printing 1 million Lebanese passports.

Naim's office said the Central Bank had received an offer from a Swedish firm to print the passports for half the price.

Naim said in a statement he will sue Khazen.

Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim and former Central Bank official, asked Hrawi to "demand Khazen's resignation as soon as possible," a Hoss aide said.

The aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted Hoss as telling Hrawi by telephone, "Only you can solve this problem. You are Maronite and the interior minister is a Maronite. Don't demand his resignation and appoint another Maronite to replace him."

But at least three of Hrawi's ministers said Khazen should remain in office.

They are: Water Resources Minister Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim; Public Works Minister Walid Jumblatt, a Druze Muslim; and Information Minister Edmond Rizk, a Maronite.

Morocco sentences activists

Amnesty men ordered to leave

RABAT, March 17, (Reuters): Six Moroccan Muslim militants were each sentenced to two years' jail and fined 10,000 dirhams (\$1,250) by a court in Sale near Rabat, defence lawyers said today.

The men were convicted on Friday night of belonging to an illegal organisation, collecting funds without permission and breaching the peace by distributing propaganda. They were members of the Adl Wa Ihsane fundamentalist movement, led by Sheikh Abd Assalam Yassine, which was ordered dissolved by the authorities on Jan 10.

Yassine has been under house arrest at his home in Sale since Dec 30 and is not permitted to receive visitors except members of his immediate family.

Earlier on Friday, the London-based human rights group Amnesty International said two of its members had been ordered to leave Morocco.

Amnesty said in a statement that the officials — Prudence Elizabeth Hodgkins and Joan Ray — were meeting members of a non-government human rights group when they were summoned to the Ministry of the Interior and told to leave.

The women arrived in Morocco on Tuesday to research human rights concerns, it said.

The jailing of the fundamentalists was the fourth case in a series of trials of Islamic activists in the past six months.

At previous trials in Taroudant, Mohammedia and Kenitra 15 activists were jailed for between one month and one year.

Yassine's son-in-law Abdullah Shibani was among those jailed at Sale.

The five others, members of the movement's consultative council, were: Mohamed Bashiri, Mohamed Aloui, Arsalane Fathallah, Abdelwaheb Moutawakil and Mohammed Abaddi.

The national news agency MAP published a statement accusing Amnesty of arriving without permission although contacts had begun to fix an official visit during the second half of March.

"Amnesty International has deliberately violated the spirit and the letter of the discussion process underway and has thereby forced Morocco to put off until another time these discussions," the statement said.

The MAP statement reiterated the government position that Amnesty failed to change its report after receiving a detailed 61-page case by case reply to the allegations.

Morocco denies it has political prisoners, saying everybody behind bars has been convicted on criminal charges.



President Bush and his wife Barbara talk with Peggy and David Say concerning Terry Anderson and other hostages held in Lebanon. Say is Anderson's sister. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talks on to free ICRC men

BEIRUT, March 17, (UPI): Negotiations were currently underway between a Swiss delegation and the captors of the Swiss workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross to secure their release, the leading Lebanese magazine Ash Shiraa said today.

Ash Shiraa, which has good contacts among Islamic fundamentalists and the magazine that first broke out the story of the US-Iran Contra arms-for-hostages scandal, said the three-man delegation arrived late in the southern port city of Sidon and started negotiations to release Elio Enriquez and Emmanuel Christen.

Enriquez, 23, and Christen, 32, were kidnapped near the refugee camp of Ein El Helweh on the outskirts of Sidon, 24 miles (38 km) south of Beirut. There is no claim of responsibility for the abduction but the camp is controlled by various rebel factions loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat and radical groups supported by Syria, Libya and Iran.

The magazine quoted security sources in Sidon as saying that while the Swiss delegation, made up of two military and a civilian, was offering to free Elio and Christen, an unidentified Lebanese negotiator went to Switzerland seeking the release of Lebanese plane hijacker Hussein Hariri imprisoned in Geneva.

Hariri was sentenced last year to life imprisonment for hijacking an air Afrique jetliner, forcing it to land at Geneva, and killing a French male passenger.

Ash Shiraa said no details were yet available regarding negotiations in both Lebanon and Switzerland.

Anderson remembered with tears, hope on fifth anniversary in captivity

WASHINGTON, March 17, (Agencies): Journalist Terry Anderson was remembered yesterday with tears and hope in his hometown, the capital and the city where he was abducted five years ago.

Anderson, 42, chief Mid East correspondent for the Associated Press, was seized on March 16, 1985, in Beirut, Lebanon.

A 24-hour fast begun by about 180 people Thursday night was broken last night at a service in his hometown of Batavia, New York.

"I hereby commit myself to one day of prayer and fasting for Terry's release and the release of all innocent human beings held hostage anywhere in the world," read pledges signed by the fasters.

They included Penny Anderson, Terry's sister-in-law, and Carl Anderson, a cousin, two of the few relatives still living in Batavia, a town of 17,000 in New York's

dairy country. Also fasting was Anne Zickl, who has never met Anderson but has become a leader of local efforts to win his release.

"Terry is dying a slow death in Lebanon," Stephen Hawley, a Genesee county legislator and high school classmate of Anderson's, said at the service.

"The time has come for all governments who have any influence over the captors to heed our pleas and our prayers. Release Terry Anderson. Release all the hostages now," Hawley said.

Other ceremonies were held yesterday in Lorain, Ohio, Anderson's birthplace. In Washington, President George Bush deplored that "merciless imprisonment" of US hostages but offered no hope for a speedy end to their ordeal.

Bush promised Anderson's sister, Peggy Say, who has devoted the five years to

bringing the journalist's captivity to the world's attention, that he would "take advantage of all legitimate opportunities" to free the captives.

After meeting with Bush, Mrs. Say attended a ceremony at a park across the street from the White House, listening to prayers and songs on a warm, sunny day that contrasted with speakers' descriptions of dungeon-like conditions Anderson has endured. Some listened with tears, some wore yellow ribbons.

"You are not forgotten, Terry," said the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, who had been held with Anderson in a bleak, windowless room in Beirut before being released in the summer of 1986. Jenco also recited the 23rd psalm and said it was the prayer that Anderson had recited when the two of them were moved and denied a prayer book.

"At this point the greatest gift we can give him is to press on, to not fail, to find an honourable way to get the job done. If you know Terry, that's what he's thinking, too," said Louis D. Boccardi, president and general manager of the Associated Press.

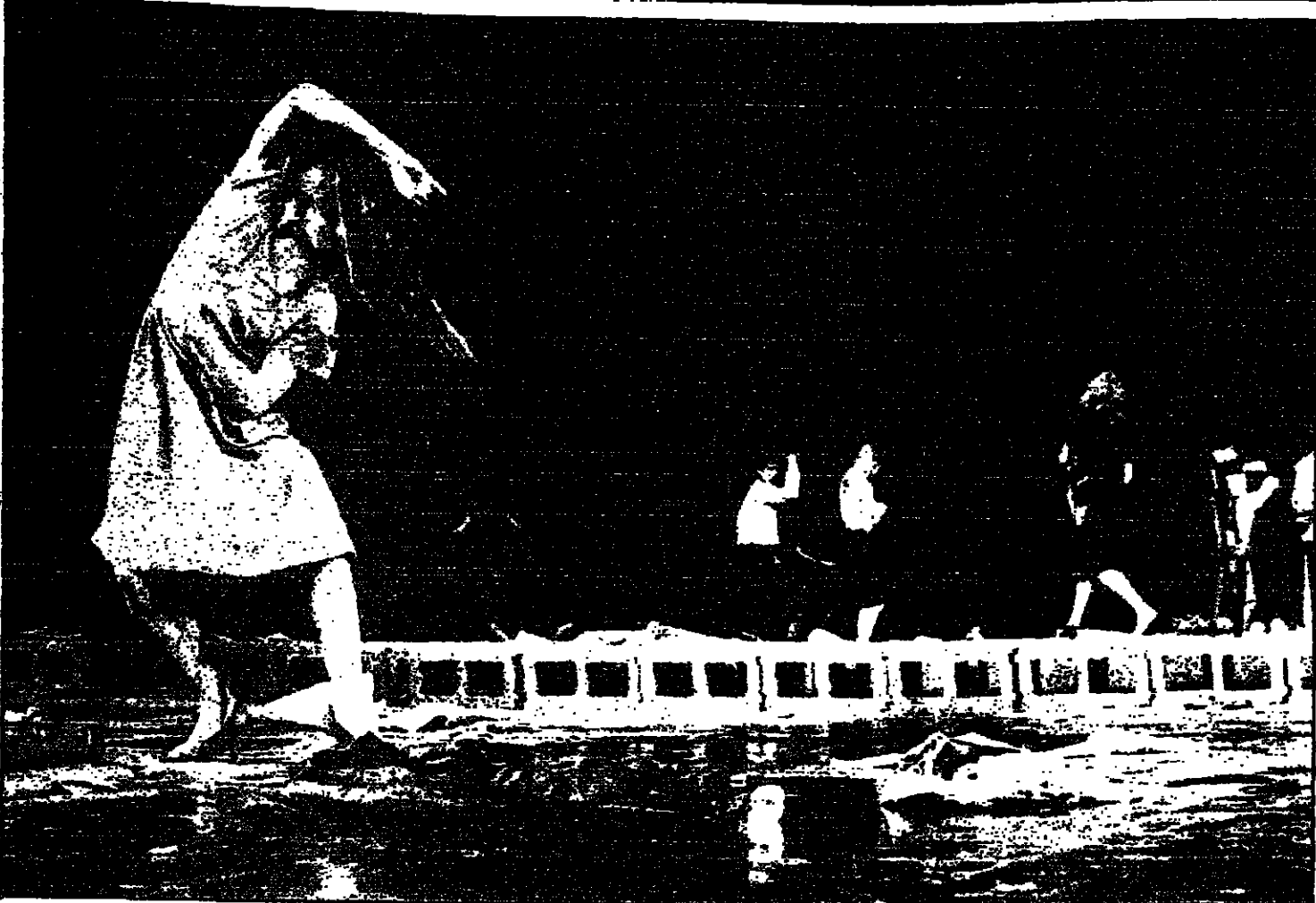
In New York, Anderson's friends and colleagues attended a mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. In Tokyo, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan honoured Anderson, who was assigned to the AP Tokyo bureau from 1977 to 1981.

In Beirut, local television stations planned to show a videotape of Anderson's 4-year-old daughter, Sulome, whom he has never seen. In the tape, the child shows off her ballet dancing and delivers a message for her father: "I love you, daddy, come home. Please come home."



Eric Anderson, 13, cousin of American hostage Terry Anderson, holds up a picture of Terry during a ceremony honouring the hostages in Lafayette Park across from the White House. (Reuters wirephoto)

WANGOLITA



Pina Bausch's latest production is called 'Palermo Stuck.' After a break of three years, the choreographer from Wuppertal once more offers a sample of her versatility. The ballet, a co-production with the Sicilian Teatro Biondo, is a fragment. Above: a scene from the ballet. (INP/Gert Weigelt)

Rembrandt's landscape perfection

By Kathleen Silvasy

WASHINGTON, (UPI): In the new republic of Holland in the 17th century, artists found their inspiration in the commonplace and no one seemed more inspired by its landscape than Rembrandt.

Regarded as one of the greatest artists of all time, Rembrandt was known primarily as a figure painter. His drawings and prints, however, were the best in capturing the spirit of the Dutch countryside and the city of Amsterdam.

The first major exhibition of this work, "Rembrandt's Landscapes: Drawings and Prints," at the National Gallery of Art (until Mar 20) contains 99 works, including more than 50 drawings and all 26 of his landscape prints.

Three of the drawings are on loan from the National Institute of the Polish Academy of Science and have never been seen before in the United States.

"The landscape of Holland of the 17th century was coming into its own as an independent subject for painting," said guest curator Cynthia Schneider. "Dutch artists worked primarily for private markets rather than church or state (commissions)."

"Pride shows in the landscapes. Rembrandt's works on paper endure as archetypes and speak as strongly today as they did then. He laid the foundation for our own appreciation of the natural world."

The exhibition is organized thematically into five sections "to show depth and breadth and it shows a distinct approach to landscape

media," said Schneider.

"Farmhouses and cottages," traces the evolution of the artist's most common theme, from detailed depictions of individual buildings to broader images of the environment evoking the effects of light and weather.

"You don't have to be an artist to appreciate this," said Schneider. "There is an economy and a convincing portrayal of weather and atmosphere, an economy of saying so much with so little."

"(Rembrandt's) ability was to use blank as an active component of composition. He left the sky blank but you have this incredibly vivid idea of what kind of day it was."

The drawings, some of them as tiny as 3 inches by 4 inches (7.6 by 10 cm), focus of landscape's most fundamental aspects: views of houses, barns, fields, rivers and roads; people working in the fields or on the water; cloudy, sunny or stormy weather.

Rembrandt did not have to venture far to find a view or scene to reproduce — the views from his home served him quite well — but in the 1640s and 1650s he would find his subjects while walking through the countryside or the city.

Accompanying the exhibition are two maps that show the approximate locations of the areas Rembrandt visited and sketched.

"We haven't been able to identify (sites) exactly," said architect Boudewijn Bakker, with the municipal archives in Amsterdam. "But we can follow him around in a general way on his walks with these maps."

Works in the "imaginary landscapes" section show how Rembrandt expanded his

vision of nature by placing common subjects of imaginary settings, such as adding foreign scenery or ancient buildings.

This section also shows Rembrandt as a student — absorbing the work of other artists by copying them. On display is an original 15th century drawing by Titian, "Mountainous landscape with a riderless horse emerging from a lake," and right next to it, Rembrandt's work of the same subject.

The third section, "architecture and town views," shows Rembrandt freely altering his subjects to suit his own preference for the historic over the contemporary.

Rembrandt was not always faithful to what he saw," said Schneider. "Sometimes he drew (a subject) as he preferred to see it." "Along the Amstel and IJ Rivers," makes up the fourth section of more expansive views around Amsterdam taken from along the water's edge, and the final section, "Panoramas," contain his more transcendent images of the land.

"The final section is perhaps the most dramatic," said Schneider, in that it depicts a range "from the most dramatic and elaborate print to the most sparsely economic drawing."

Andrew Robison, senior curator at the National Gallery, said there is also an instructional side to Rembrandt's drawings.

There seems to be a "hierarchy of subject matters," in art, he said. "Painting is the most important, architecture is next... and so on."

Like him, he said there seems to be a hierarchy within painting, and landscape art usually is at the bottom.

New Star Trek series

An alien time bomb waiting to explode

CAPTAIN Kirk and his star Trek crew would be horrified. 35 years on, their worst enemy has boarded a starship Enterprise. There on the flight deck — larger than life — is a Klingon.

And, as a new generation of Star Trekkers boldly goes where Kirk, Spock and Co. once went, that Klingon has actually joined the crew. Not that the Trekkers feel exactly comfortable: when glowering Lieutenant (junior grade) Worf is around the sophisticated New Enterprise.

Towering, black actor Michael Dorn, one of the stars of the new series Star Trek: The Next Generation, told me: "I play the lieutenant as though he is a time-bomb waiting to explode."

In the series, to be shown on the BBC next September, 66: Zins: Michael blasts off into space with a couple of Brits and an android called Data.

He shares the New Enterprise with sultry, 30-year-old Marina Sirtis, who plays half-alien Deanna Troi. And Captain Kirk's "replacement" is Captain Jean Luc Picard — actor Patrick Stewart. Also aboard the sophisticated new craft is a crew of no less than 12,000.

As the new series soars into the US ratings, gathering awards, the scriptwriters have consigned the old Enterprise and its ageing stars to some celestial scrapyard.

Michael, a veteran, of the police series *Chips*, said, "Our spaceship is still called after the Enterprise, but none of the old crew are in it. They have gone up into Movie Heaven. We allude to the old Enterprise once, and that's it. There is only one link with the past. One of the original Star Trek cast, Dr. McCoy, appeared in our pilot episode. He was about 127 years old and pretty crotchety. He was an animal who could just about walk around. It was a wonderful scene."

And Marina, who appeared in TV's *Minder*, explained: "We're living in the 24th Century. Our spacecraft is much bigger and more sophisticated than the old one. For example, there is a saucer section which flies away from the craft's battle bridge."

"I am half alien, like Mr. Spock used to be 85 years ago. But that is the only similarity. I wear huge, black contact lenses that make my eyes look like Bambi's. And I'm a member of a royal, outer space family."

How did meenie-about-the-spaceship Worf manage to join the Star Trekkers, the Klingons' old enemy? Michael explained: "Worf was found on a destroyed outpost when he was eight years old. His parents had been killed. So he was raised by Star Trek officers."

"Worf knows that the Klingons are old enemies of his new associates. So it is an uneasy alliance. Worf has flashes of being out of control. But he wouldn't do anything to endanger the ship. And he would fight to the death for his captain and crew."

Nightmares Michael, whose features when he leaves the make-up department would give Kirk nightmares, went on: "Worf is impersonal, serious and aggressive."

"Whereas Spock had a dry sense of humour, Worf doesn't have one at all. He doesn't believe in laughing and joking. Worf is essentially annoyed by humans and their frailties."

"He doesn't think much of the Enterprise crew. You realise what a tough customer he is when the closest thing he has to a greeting is, 'What do you want?' Worf is basically a warrior."

Michael, a bachelor who lives modestly in the Los Angeles suburb of Burbank, landed the plum role of Worf by turning himself into Klingon for the auditions. He told me: "I was the nearest I've ever been. I walked on to the studio lot with the attitude that I didn't like anybody. Normally, at these interviews, you see everybody you know. You laugh, joke, exchange gossip and are nice to the producer. But this time I acted as though I didn't like my friends, who were waiting there. I didn't like the producer."

I didn't even like the secretaries. "When I went into the producer, I knew that he was looking for someone big and intimidating. So I just read my scenes, said, 'Thank you very much for this opportunity. Goodbye,' and walked out."

Michael, chuckled and went on: "I played the whole thing as a Klingon... eloquent, intelligent and intense. Later, so they told me, the guys at the audition looked at one another and asked whether I was nuts. They couldn't work out whether I was serious or not."

"I don't think they knew exactly what they wanted until they saw me. And I played it that way because I had nothing to lose. Anyway, they agreed that I was really mean. And different. So I got the part. My strategy had worked."

Drawbacks

So Michael won his seat on the New Enterprise as third in command. As they go adventuring way out in space, he is in charge of "environment and propulsion science."

But playing a Klingon has its drawbacks... especially if you like to get up at a reasonable hour in the mornings. For Michael has to rise at 5 am so that he can get to the studio in time for a two-hour make-up ordeal.

He said: "At least there is no traffic at that time in the morning, and it takes only eight minutes to get to work. I don't complain about the early rising. It's part of the business of being an actor. They need all that time to turn me into a fantasy."

"The first thing the make-up people do is to glue on a latex cap, which comes down over my eyebrows. Then they glue on a new bridge to my nose. After that, they have to match up the colour of my face to that of the bits they've added."

"I change chairs, and a hairdresser glues on a wig and combs the hair. Then I go to a third chair, here this guy puts on a Fu Manchu moustache and goatee beard. I end up looking really intimidating. Normally, it takes only 45 minutes to an hour to be made up for a part."

Like all the other members of the new generation, Lieutenant Worf is very different from Captain Kirk and the old hugely successful crew. And they wondered how Star Trek's obsessive fans, The Trekkies would receive them. Soon after the show launched, the cast were thrown in at the deep end, by having to attend a series of Trekkie conventions.

These cult fans knew every detail of every one of the old Star Trek shows and even questioned the new cast minutely about the series.

Michael told me: "After a lot of tentativeness, the Trekkies accepted us well. They really are purists but, after seeing the old show hundreds of times, they wanted something new. They were hungry for us."

"Now the fans eat us up. I've come to enjoy these encounters. But I still find it a little strange to come face-to-face with grown men wearing replicas of Worf's uniform. I don't think I'd see people in three-piece suits, clutching leather briefcases at an L.A. Law convention."

Dark-haired Marina, who comes from Tottenham, North London, added: "I think a lot of the fans didn't want a new Star Trek because they were scared we would do something sacrilegious with it. Sort of defile the memory of the old series."

"But, after our first show had gone out, a fan told me, 'We really didn't want to like your show, but we can't help it.'"

Although Michael is careful with his new-found wealth, because he knows only too well how fickle show-business success can be, he has indulged himself in one big luxury. The actor, an expert pilot, has bought himself an aeroplane. He said modestly: "It was an older type and not very expensive."



Michael (far left) and Marina Sirtis (front) are beamed down to an alien planet.

Environment protection in Taiwan

Temple task force fights pollution

TAIPEI, (Reuters): A mania for gambling has given rise to a new cottage industry in Taiwan's cities — special temples in private apartments where Taoist priests divulge divine tips to anxious punters.

Flocks of stock-market investors, property speculators and gamblers crowd into the temples every day, paying hefty fees to offer up their prayers and ask advice of the gods.

But the temples have raised some earthly hackles in Tiwan, one of Asia's most prosperous states, a speculator's paradise where chasing wealth is the national sport.

In the capital, Taipei, complaints are pouring into the city government from angry neighbours who say clouds of incense and round-the-clock chanting are driving them crazy.

"These temples are part of our traditional religion but they are not acceptable in the city," said Lin Hong-Sen, a member of a new government addressing complaints about the temples. "People must adapt to their new environment."

He said his sister was shocked to discover the value of her apartment had plunged after a downstairs neighbour opened a private temple.

"The apartment is full of smoke every day."

Who will want to buy it? Lin said.

The government logged 66 formal complaints about private temples last year and estimates more than 1,200 are now open for business in the city.

Taipei's response has been to send hard-eyed agents from the new government body to prowling the capital's raucous streets.

They belong to the "temple task force" set up by the city's environmental protection office.

Armed with electronic decibel counters and stacks of public complaints, they are after temples violating pollution laws with their noise and smoke.

"I am not a superstitious man, which is good in this job," said Lin. "But you try to be nice about it... it isn't good to challenge people's religion."

Lin and his team hit the streets in February to begin what the city government has dubbed "Project Oriole Phase III". Their mission: to survey temples, then feed information into a computer to keep track of their pollution records.

Bad records will bring fines and possible closure.

The project's first target is religious noise pollution, banging of gongs, chanting prayers and playing tape-recorded mantras at high

volume.

But officials plan soon to expand the dragnet to include other forms of pollution, including incense smoke, firecrackers and improperly disposed of altar offerings.

On a recent tour of his beat, Lin pointed out some types of temples neighbour find most annoying.

"The Buddhists are usually very sedate. It is the Taoists who really love noise," he said, adding that he had also had to investigate one case of noisy choir practice at a Christian church.

At a large temple built onto an apartment building, two gutted pigs lay stretched in front of the doorway, offerings for the birthday of a local god. Music blared through loudspeakers and worshippers made small bows to an urn full of smoking incense.

"Special occasions like this are all right. Most neighbours won't complain," Lin said, but he warned two elderly ladies sitting on the stoop not to increase the volume of the chants coming over the loudspeakers.

At another one-room temple in a north Taipei apartment, a Taoist priest dressed in robes and a small, crown-like headress exclaimed his prayers over the roar of motorcycle traffic on the street outside.

'Proper' book to spell names

By Joe Fashinder

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): Your dictionary is no smarter than mine. Whether it resides on a shelf or in a computer, chances are it can't tell Calphalon cookware from the Treaty of Cambrai.

Proper names are one of the rare things that most computers just don't address. Most aren't in the dictionary either, so you have to turn elsewhere for the correct spelling of a Dickens character or a designer shirt manufacturer.

It can be maddening if you don't have "Oliver Twist" or something by Yves Saint-Laurent hanging in your closet when you have to spell those names correctly in a letter.

The "Proper Noun Speller" (Quickref Publishing, 240 pp., \$11.95 PB) with its 15,000 entries is designed to alleviate the frustration that given names engender.

It's the first book from this publisher, and had in initial press run of 5,000 copies, all of which were just about gone after three weeks in print.

"We're expecting to get a computer version out by summer," said Danson, because she and Diana Gregory wrote one of the books that bears Keene's name, *Over the Edge*.

It was that book which eventually gave birth to the *Proper Noun Speller* — all because the authors wanted to have character Nancy Drew eat some Scandinavian-sounding ice cream.

"We couldn't spell the brand name," O'Keefe said.

Refusing to settle for plain ice cream, Gregory was dispatched to a local supermarket. She found all the way home.

Thus was born an idea for a book that has a few notable limitations.

It works just fine if your car is a Lexus, but not so well if you want to spell the name of the Lexis Computer Database Service. The *Proper Noun Speller* will tell you that it's the book of Mormon, and the next entry in the series looks like this: Mormons, or Latter Day Saints.

That's almost correct. The organisation is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with a lower-case "d" in day. They are Latter Day Saints, individually.

Even if the *Proper Noun Speller* doesn't know every Hollywood star or starlet, it can help you if you need Ayatollah Ali Khamenei or the Okefenokee swamp. Hercule Poirot, the Peloponnesian war and Walla Walla, Wash., do not escape the gaze of the non-existent Jean Emerich. With this book, you can correctly also differentiate between the spelling of the last name of the vice-president of the United States and the bird with a similar name.

The *Proper Noun Speller* lists brand names, names from politics and popular culture, fictional characters and sports figures. Interior design terms are spelled out, as are architectural names and character names from mythology and those from a wide range of other subjects.



Michael Dorn plays the glowering Klingon Lt. Worf in the TV series Star Trek: The Next Generation



Michael in his daunting Klingon make-up.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE CAN BE EASED, BUT NOT CURED

QUESTION: My breathing difficulty has been diagnosed by my physician as COPD. Now I need more information from you. Could you please tell me what my condition is and how is it treated?

ANSWER: COPD stands for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and many diseases can cause it. Essentially, it's difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath due to limited air flow through the lungs. Chronic bronchitis or chronic emphysema can contribute to COPD, as can other diseases like cystic fibrosis. Some COPD patients also suffer from asthma.

The most common contributor to COPD is smoking, which is the leading cause of chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Because of smoking, COPD is a significant health problem in the United States and the number of cases will only increase as more people who have spent a lifetime smoking grow older. Exposure to air pollution is another risk factor in developing COPD, as is severe bronchial infection.

In most COPD patients, the airways of their lungs have either become permanently narrowed or

the tissue has lost its elasticity and is like a balloon that is stretched out of shape. COPD usually develops slowly, over the course of years. Many patients show the symptoms for years before finally seeing a physician because of increasing shortness of breath.

There is no cure for COPD, and all treatments include eliminating factors or situations that exacerbate the problem. If you still smoke, the most important thing to do is to stop smoking. This will slow the progression of the disease, but your condition will not reverse. Other steps to take are to eliminate dust, animal hair, and other irritants from your home environment.

There are several types of drugs that can be used to treat COPD. These will alleviate symptoms, and work to reduce potentially serious complications. Bronchodilators are commonly used to treat COPD, since these open the air passages and make breathing easier. Corticosteroids are used to reduce inflammation, and antibiotics may be necessary to clear infections away. It is also important to keep to a minimum the secretions in the bronchial tubes (air

passages) and both sufficient fluid intake and medications may be helpful.

You must be careful to try to avoid catching colds or respiratory infections, because your lungs are already weakened. I hope you had your flu shot this season as you're just the person who can profit from this type of disease prevention.

Across my desk: While most people are aware that the presence of saturated fatty acids in meats may lead to higher levels of cholesterol in the blood, few realize that these same type of fats may be present in vegetable products as well. While almost 70 per cent of all saturated fatty acids in the diet come from animal products, the high levels contained in tropical plant oils such as coconut and palm can also provide substantial amounts. These oils are used in producing coffee creamers, cake mixes, some breakfast cereals and some snack foods as well. Your best protection against consuming too much of these products is careful label reading and knowing their content in your prepared foods.

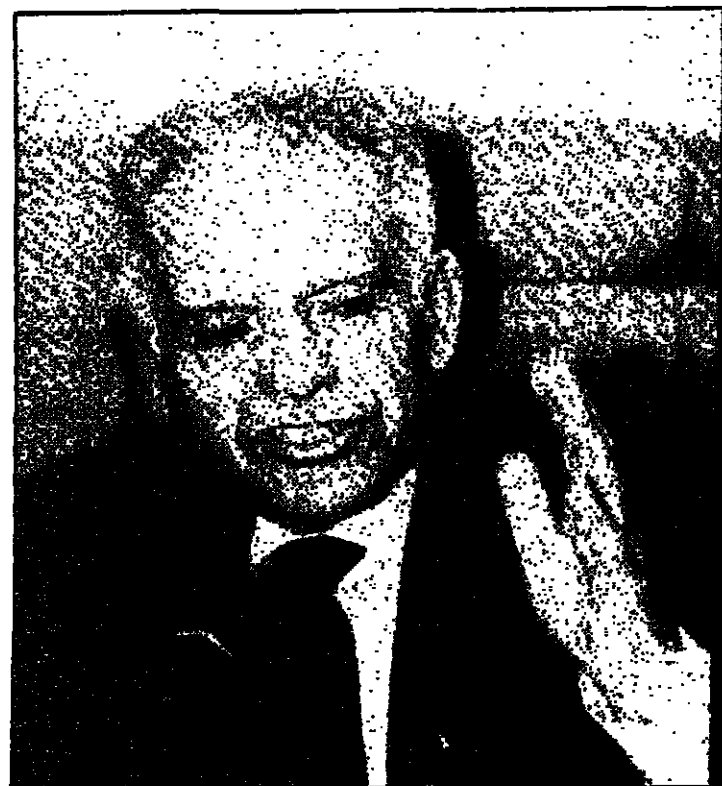
EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

CUSTOMS may not be as wise as laws, but they are always more popular — Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

Peace talks stalled Defeat reflects social divisions



Shamir

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): The defeat of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government reflects an Israeli society deeply divided over everything from peace with Palestinians to how to define a Jew. Defenders of the 74-year-old former Mossad agent said he tried to bridge the extremes of right and left. Detractors said he tried to ignore them by not taking any decisions.

"Shamir tried to form a national consensus," the Jerusalem Post wrote in an editorial supporting him following Thursday's parliamentary vote. "But the pull of political polarisation made him enemies everywhere."

Coalition

Forming a viable government that can take decisive action will not be easy — whether a narrow coalition led by Shamir's Likud Party or Shimon Peres' Labour Party or a broad one searching for a common denominator.

The decisive split came over attitudes toward Israel-Palestinian talks between Labour and Likud, the two main parties in the coalition that collapsed after 15 months.

Labour demanded Israel accept a US proposal for talks in Cairo aimed at advancing a peace plan first presented by Shamir 10 months ago. Shamir, after months of delay, finally refused.

Shamir cited two reasons, long-debated points that Labour was willing to ignore to start a process that might end the 27-month-long Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

Shamir insisted on excluding the 150,000 Palestinians of east Jerusalem from any role in negotiations to determine the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Guarantee

He also wanted a guarantee Israel would break off the Cairo talks if the Palestinian delegation even consulted the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Some in Labour believe talking to the PLO is necessary to ever reach peace, while some Likud members oppose talks with Palestinians because they could lead to loss of the occupied territories.

"A narrow government with confidence is preferable to a government (now) disbanded over disagreements between camps going in different directions," said the independent Maariv daily.

Even a narrow government will not be easy to assemble. Likud holds 40 seats in the Parliament and Labour has 39. The remaining 41 seats in the Knesset are split between 14 parties with opinions across the political spectrum.

The three members of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality are Arabs who advocate recognition of the PLO and establishment of a Palestinian state beside Israel.

The two members of the Moledet Party, both Jews, want to see the entire 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories leave for other countries.

Positions

The positions of some parties are so firm that the dovish Labour or the hardline Likud can assume their support. That leaves those with less-fixed views on Palestinians holding the balance of power.

But they have a host of other demands that can make them uncomfortable partners in government. Religious parties particularly have made or broken governments through the years — including the latest one.

The five members of Agudat Israel voted against Shamir on Thursday not over peace talks, but because he reneged on a promise to support them in the "who is a Jew?" controversy.

Agudat Israel's definition would exclude many members of the American Jewish community, the world's largest. It is one of the few issues that can mobilise US Jewish pressure on the Israeli government.

"Consensus may not be inspiring," said the Jerusalem Post, a supporter of the old government. "But a grey consensus is better than a colourful society torn at the seams."

However, Israel seems doomed to choose between a narrow coalition that cannot speak for enough people and a broad government of Labour and Likud paralysed by internal differences.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1813 — Hamburg, Germany, is occupied by Russians following patriotic outbreak in city against French.
- 1848 — Revolution breaks out in Milan against Austrian rule, and Joseph Radetzky's forces abandon city.
- 1903 — French religious orders are dissolved.
- 1913 — Greece's King George I is assassinated in Salonika.
- 1922 — Mahatma Gandhi is sentenced to six years in prison in India for civil disobedience.
- 1962 — Ceasefire in Algerian war is signed by French and Algerian rebel delegates in Evian-les-Bains, France.
- 1965 — Egypt's exiled King Farouk dies in Rome. Soviet Air Force officer becomes first man to leave an orbiting spacecraft and float in space.
- 1967 — Soviet Union expels two Chinese diplomats from Moscow, charging them with anti-Soviet activity.
- 1969 — United States and Soviet Union propose international treaty to ban nuclear weapons from ocean floor.
- 1970 — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk is deposed as chief of state while he is on visit to Moscow.
- 1988 — Hundreds of Palestinian refugees clash with Israeli soldiers after Muslim prayers in Gaza Strip.
- 1989 — Israeli soldiers shoot and kill three Palestinians in clashes with protesters in occupied Gaza Strip.

Summary executions in occupied areas

Collaborators shown no mercy

BEIT FURIK, Occupied West Bank, (AP): Standing beside a pile of bloodied rocks, the young men told how hundreds of villagers, even children, chased and stoned to death a fellow Palestinian who confessed to being an informer for Israel.

In Beit Furik, they said, there was no mercy for collaborators.

Several days before the stoning death last month, a village crowd clapped and cheered as a Palestine Liberation Organisation activist with an axe split open the head of another supposed informer.

Both alleged informers had made confessions over the loudspeakers of the village mosque after armed militants abducted them and beat them severely during an extended interrogation, villagers said.

"Anybody who is co-operating with the Israelis, his head should be crushed," said Aysba Moussa Yousef, 52, whose activist son Mohammed Odeh, 32, was arrested in the village clinic last month after collaborators tipped off troops about his whereabouts.

Beit Furik's public "executions" are an unusually harsh example of the retribution handed out with increasing frequency to suspected informers despite an order from PLO chief Yasser Arafat to stop unauthorised killings.

An estimated 193 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds of others injured by fellow Arabs during the 27-month Palestinian uprising. In most cases, the victims are accused of collaboration.

Israeli legislator Yossi Sarid of the liberal Citizens Rights Movement cited the slayings as one reason the uprising no longer attracts as much sympathetic attention abroad as it once did.

"Enlightened people reach the conclusion that if this is what they (the Palestinians) do to themselves, then what does it matter any more what others do to them," Sarid wrote in the liberal Haaretz daily.

In Beit Furik, a mountain farming village of about 4,000 people near the West Bank city of Nablus, residents said they had reasons for their anger. Six of the village's young men have died in battles with Israeli troops.

A village PLO activist, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of arrest, said local leaders were justified in ignoring the plea for restraint from Arafat, known as Abu Ammar.

"Abu Ammar doesn't live with us here. He doesn't know what we are going through. If he was here, I believe he would be the first one to kill collaborators," said the activist, speaking in a ransacked clinic where soldiers trapped Odeh and another activist on an informer's tip.

Sari Nusseibeh, a leading pro-PLO activist in occupied Jerusalem said the number of slayings would have been higher if Arafat had not issued his order to stop.

"I personally deplore all killings, and they cannot be justified morally," Nusseibeh said. "But the Palestinians are faced with the daily reality of having terrorists in their midst. It's very difficult for them to have the kind of sentiments we expect."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said PLO militants had to use force to overcome the population's exhaustion with strikes and protests. To ensure compliance, he said, "they have to create an atmosphere of terror."

Palestinians say there are more killings because there are more collaborators. They say Israel's Shin Bet secret service is attempting to restore a network of informers shattered when many collaborators recanted during the early months of the uprising.

"This network is now being rebuilt by the military and the Shin Bet who are arming those who did not recant and enlisting new recruits among the population," the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq wrote in its 1989 report on the occupied lands.

Al Haq said some Palestinians, armed by Israel, act with Shin Bet agents in arresting and interrogating uprising activists.

The Shin Bet often recruited collaborators through blackmail, Al Haq said. Some were promised hard-to-get resident permits for close relatives or granted immunity from prosecution from drug or other criminal charges, the report said.

A senior military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Palestinians who worked with the Israeli authorities did so voluntarily and acted within the law even when given weapons for self-defence.

He said up to 90 per cent of those alleged to be informers had no ties to Israel and were killed by Palestinians settling personal scores.

The US State Department's latest human rights report said many victims worked for Israeli authorities although some were indeed slain in vendettas unconnected to the uprising.



CONTRAS LEAVING HONDURAS

Old scar ripped open

WASHINGTON, (UPI) — With an offhand remark about occupied Jerusalem, President George Bush ripped open an old scar last week at precisely the wrong time for US diplomacy in the Middle East.

Bush said the United States opposes Jewish civilian settlements in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, in line with US policy as it has been articulated for 23 years.

He also said that east Jerusalem was part of the conquered territory. It is a correct statement, but one that has been glossed over by a succession of administrations even though Israel formally annexed the eastern half of the city. The United States never officially recognized the annexation as legal.

Beyond

Where Bush went beyond past US policy statements was to link the occupied West Bank with east Jerusalem as occupied territory, upsetting the Israeli government because of the implication that Jews — including recent arrivals from the Soviet Union — might not have the right to settle in the holy city.

That Israeli reaction, in turn, triggered renewed Arab outrage, including a call by Syrian President Hafez Assad "For a holy war against Israel until doomsday" for seeking to use the new exodus of Soviet Jews to displace Palestinians.

In Washington, the representative of the Arab League, Clovis Mak-soud, said Israel's interest in Soviet Jewish immigration to east Jerusalem and the occupied territories is not based on respect for human rights but "in reality is deliberately designed as a further step in the fulfilment of the Zionist dream."

Bush, in his statement, walked into a minefield that is about 4,000 years old.

Jerusalem — as a symbol, as a city, as a holy place for Christianity, Judaism and Islam — has been pushed carefully into the background by US diplomats for the past 30 years because it is an emotional issue that can be dealt with only as the final chapter of any Middle East peace agreement.

When Israel annexed the 9,300 acres (3,700 ha) of Jerusalem in 1967, it almost immediately expanded the city limits to about 26,000 acres (10,400 ha), including some of the hills around the Old Walled City. The lines were drawn to include a maximum Jewish population.

The Arab note that Jerusalem, as defined by Israel, now includes about 35 per cent of what used to be called the West Bank. They say the Israelis are really using Jerusalem to absorb much of the surrounding hillside by arbitrarily defining them as part of the holy city.

By expanding Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities also made the settlement of new immigrants an emotional, religious issue for world Jewry. The city, the site of an ancient temple that the Romans destroyed in 70 A.D., serves as a symbol of Judaism. All that's left of the temple is the Wailing Wall.

For Christians, the same deep feeling is recalled in the life and crucifixion of Jesus, who died on a skull-shaped hill just inside the Old Walls.

And for the Muslims, who call the city Al-Quds, it is the sacred site of the Dome of the Rock, which stands where Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) ascended to heaven.

Bush's careless injection of this explosive religious issue came at a time when Israel was considering a plan by Secretary of State James Baker to start an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on the tortuous road toward a peace agreement.

The conservative factions in the Israeli government had been suspicious from the beginning of the Baker plan, seeing it as a form of slow suicide rather than the first step toward peace.

The clumsy raising of the emotional issue of occupied Jerusalem at this critical moment by Bush had reinforced those Israeli fears.

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In Beit Furik, a Muslim preacher whose mosque loudspeakers were used to broadcast the alleged confessions of informers, said the slayings in the village were revenge for crimes against the uprising.

"According to Islam, the collaborator who delivers a Muslim into the hands of the Jews should be killed," said the bearded preacher, who refused to give his name.

Gorby gets more powers

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Which president enjoys the most power — Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, George Bush of the United States or Francois Mitterrand of France?

On paper at least, the answer appears to be Gorbachev, who can rule by decree unfettered by any parliamentary restraints.

He can veto laws passed by Parliament, declare war if the country is attacked, call a national referendum, and order a state of emergency in any area, with the consent of the republic concerned.

Power

But his most sweeping power says he can "issue decrees which are binding on the whole territory of the country."

There are no conditions attached other than the vague stipulation that this power should be used to implement the country's constitution and laws.

The powers of the executive presidency created by the Congress of People's Deputies this week worry many Soviet radicals who fear a new autocracy has been created in the Kremlin.

"I don't think any of us can predict with certainty how this is going to work in reality. There is a lot of difference between power on paper and the ability to exercise it. It doesn't necessarily mean he can issue a decree on just about anything and get it obeyed," said one senior Western diplomat.

The Kremlin's recent experience with breakaway Lithuania declaring its independence is one example of Moscow's orders being simply ignored.

The American president can invoke a national emergency, which involves many similar powers to martial law. But he has no blanket power to issue decrees.

Emergency

The French president can assume emergency powers but any action he takes can be reversed by Parliament, which sits throughout an emergency.

Like his counterparts in Washington and Paris, the Soviet president carries out all the functions of head of state.

Soviet deputies who backed the creation of the executive presidency argue that their country faces a

special situation in which a strong leader is needed to tackle desperate problems such as the tottering economy and seething ethnic tensions.

In his acceptance speech, Gorbachev said he intended to use the presidential right to issue decrees, particularly to implement and accelerate radical economic reforms already approved by Parliament.

"Presidential decrees will be required on key issues to formulate tasks clearly, set deadlines, and name those responsible for meeting them," he said.

It was clear from his remarks that he planned to make aggressive use of his new office, assigning the presidential council, an advisory council whose members are to be appointed by him, all sorts of initiatives and projects.

Collective

"This body is being designed as a collective of major political figures, experts on key spheres of state and public development who will work out recommendations on basic issues of domestic and foreign policy and suggest, if need be, prompt solutions," Gorbachev said.

Western analysts of Gorbachev's new powers say they may not be as sweeping as they look on paper, with question marks over whether they would be obeyed and how they would be enforced.

The analysts note that Gorbachev is continuing as Communist Party leader in a country where no other strong and cohesive political force has emerged.

The Soviet Parliament, unless it really begins to assert its power, will not be much of a threat to him. Soviet courts have no independence whatsoever from the rest of the government.

"Until there are more checks and balances in this system, there will be some danger of abuse of power," the senior diplomat said.

Gorbachev told the Congress he was aware that some people were afraid the president would be able to usurp power, but he insisted: "There is no reason for such fears." The constitution would keep him in line, he said.



Gorbachev... additional powers.

Letters to the editor

In trouble

SIR: The Controller of Examination, Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad, at the centre to hold theory and practical examinations of ISP students. The students, parents and teachers of the ISP were astonished to learn that the centre has been shifted to Shaab School. They were amazed to learn that the same school's slushy teacher has been appointed as the external examiner for the Centre Superintendent of SSC examinations, 1990 (who is trying) to ruin the future and the career of the students of ISP.

The laboratory of Shaab School is inadequate. Only five students can perform practicals at a time. This can be verified by the Result Gazette of the Federal Board.

A community comprises of its members. It is ridiculous that someone places the members of the community in trouble while claiming to be the wisher of the community.

Malik Habib-ur-Rahman,
Member, Parents-Teachers,
Education Council, ISP

Simply private

THE Embassy of Pakistan would like to clarify the situation regarding the International School of Pakistan. In their letter dated Jan 16, 1990 the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad reiterated to the Principal of the ISP that the school was not affiliated and the registration forms for the Session 1989-90 and 1990-91 of the school could not be accepted for want of affiliation. In consequence, the school students had to appear as private students. This decision was communicated after the high court had dismissed the writ petition of the "Principal" of the ISP, Tasleem Akbar (Copy of the board's letter submitted to A7).

As private candidates, the students of the ISP are not permitted to appear from ISP in their practical examination but must appear from an affiliated institution. As there were already over a hundred students appearing at the Rumsdithia School in practical examinations, the Superintendent allotted the Shaab School as the centre for the ISP private candidates.

The embassy takes this opportunity to once again convey to the parents of ISP students that the forms sent by the ISP for the SSC Examination as regular students have been rejected by the board and all students have been asked to fill fresh forms as private students.

Their applications for SSC examination have been accepted provisionally by the board as a special case on the recommendation of the embassy. However, the board requires them to fill and send proper application forms as private candidates.

Syed Iqbal Hussain,
Press and Cultural Attache,
Embassy of Pakistan

Policy failure

SIR: Late president General Zia continued Pakistan's three-decade long foreign policy of befriending the United States. As an extension of this global policy continued, he became the architect of Pakistan's posture towards Afghanistan. What triggered the general's imagination and foresight to get Pakistan so deeply involved in Afghan affairs can only be guessed. It might have been simply the established Pakistani convention to let the US direct Pakistan's foreign policy, after all Pakistan had been towing the American line all along.

General Zia might have felt the need to rock the boat. Another possibility could have been the late president's vision of Islam. The OIC, with support from the majority of Islamic countries, disapproved of the Karmal-backed regime in Kabul; consequently, Gen Zia might have felt obligated to place Pakistan as the frontline state to counter communist insurgency viewed as anti-Islamic. Yet, there can be another explanation: it might have been covert American pressure to confront the Russians in exchange for military and economic aid to Gen Zia's regime. In such a scenario, Pakistan had to become an extended arm of US foreign policy in South Asia.

Given the absence of an open political discourse during the Zia era, the conceptual fundamentals of Pakistan's foreign policy did not come under a rationalized review. However, what the late president said to legitimize his foreign policy was that the strategic interests of the US and Pakistan were common, and the relationship between the two countries was based on solid foundations. What the former president conveniently forgot to explain to his nation was the nature of those common strategic interests between the US and Pakistan, and how and why this so-called commonality of interests was transformed as a base for a foreign policy initiative.

Relations

Indeed, the initiation of Pakistan's Afghan policy was a very serious matter; it not only involved Pakistan's relations with two major global powers, but it also entailed prolonged guerrilla warfare in a neighbouring Islamic country, and the resultant gruesome killing of Muslims at the hands of each other.

No less important were the impacts that the Afghan policy were going to have in the internal socio-economic-political-cultural landscape of Pakistan and the consequent results in the security conditions within the country. Another related issue was the expected emerging psychological profile of a nation supporting a major covert military operation and offering itself as a host to millions of displaced persons amidst an already ailing economy. It seems Zia considered Pakistan in the role of a benevolent benefactor and forged an emotional consensus of the masses in his Afghan policy.

Now, several years down the road, in a retrospective reflective stance, the overall situation, internal as well as external, seems to suggest that the Afghan policy has not produced any authentically desirable results; particularly, there have not been any gains for Pakistan. Instead, there have been more countable sufferings and ruptures in Pakistan's internal body-politics.

Theapologists who maintain that the Soviet military withdrawal had been a clear victory are dead wrong. Considering that the US and Western Europe had wanted the Soviets to bleed to global embarrassment in Afghanistan, the Soviet military disengagement, in fact, can be interpreted as a policy failure for the West and a victory for Gorbachev in out-manoeuvring the west in global strategic thinking. As far as Pakistan is concerned, the war continues with its devastating impacts, visible as well as invisible.

Zia was a military ruler who chose not to reveal the substance of the true nature of Pakistan-US relations; at least, this has been alleged by the progressive political forces in Pakistan. It has been maintained that the late president dealt with the basic democratic principle of open political discourse with considerable admonition.

Perhaps it can be expected that the democratically elected prime minister would be more candid and articulate in expressing her judicious understanding of the four-decade old love-hate partnership between the US and Pakistan. After all, it is within the legitimate parameters of the Pakistan's past so steadfastly remained committed to serving the foreign policy objectives of the United States — particularly now when this policy seems to be counter productive to the interests of Pakistan.

Dr Haider Mehdi,
Shawwalika

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

LANCILLA

BLONDIE



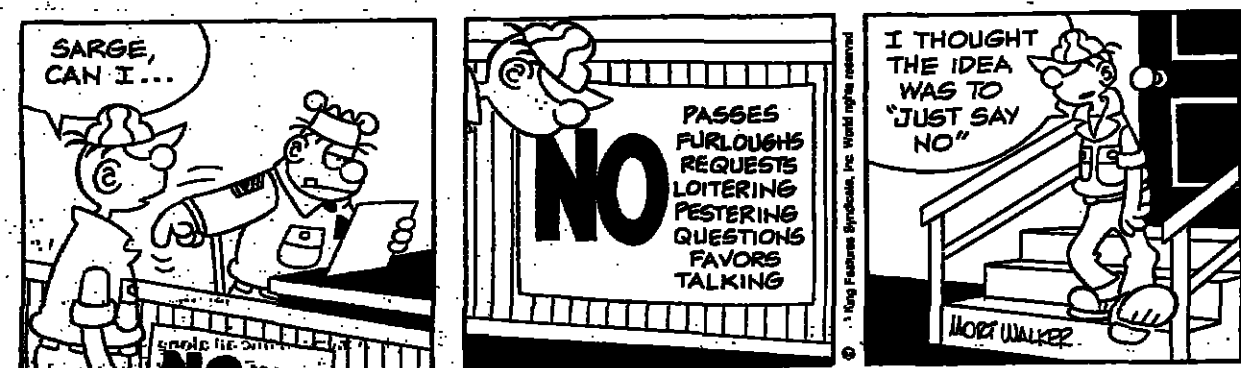
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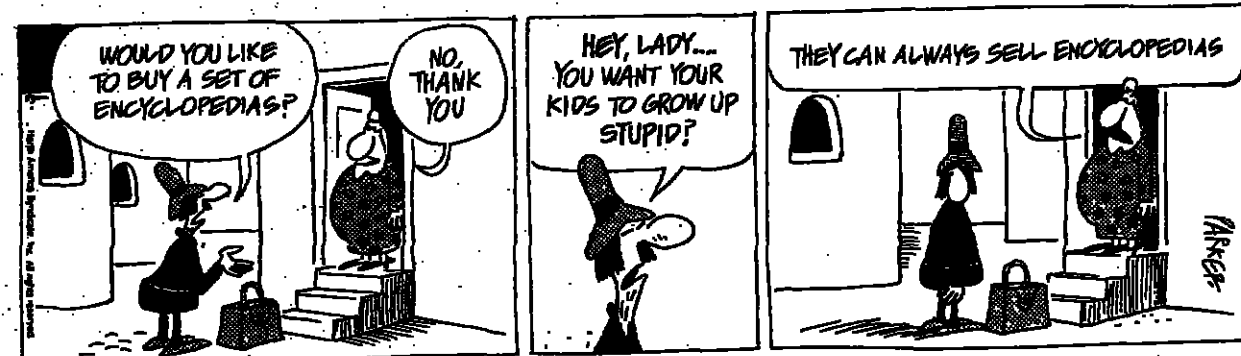
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THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPE



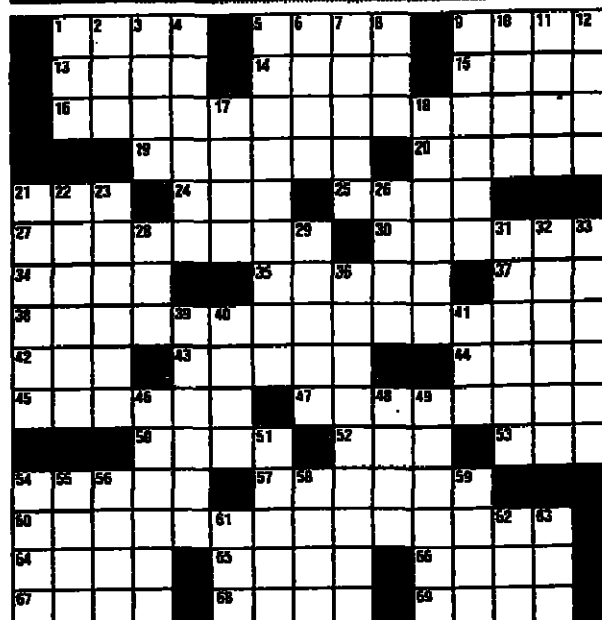
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Minor falsehoods
- 5 Newspaper notice, for short
- 9 Recipe direction
- 13 Clumsy one
- 14 Not the least
- 15 Name of three English rivers
- 16 Super!
- 19 Tourist spots
- 20 Lab heaters
- 21 Lanes up.
- 24 Early Castro ally
- 25 Yesterday's leftovers today
- 27 "Twenty — maidens we..."
- 30 Ancient markers
- 34 Premed class
- 35 Satiated, in Vera Cruz
- 37 Explorer Johnson
- 38 Occurring under orders
- 42 Venus,
- 43 Desert scenery
- 44 Relative of curare
- 45 Cremona creations, for short
- 47 Type of reporter
- 50 Pocket bread
- 52 Wine: Comb. form
- 53 Mammoth has three
- 54 — Ben Jonson!
- 57 Public meetings
- 60 Off the subject
- 64 Frequent catchall abbr.
- 65 Dam in a rill
- 66 Portico, in ancient Greece
- DOWN**
- 1 Alice's TV friend
- 2 Marker, for short
- 3 "Ifs, ands, or —"
- 4 Followers of Zeno
- 5 Where to take it?
- 6 Thai money
- 7 Terrier or stew
- 8 Namesakes of a Cobb
- 9 "... charms to — a savage breast:"
- 10 Congre
- 11 Spin
- 11 — de Pascua
- 12 Grange and Buttons
- 17 E to J connection
- 18 " — the Pecos": Mitchum movie
- 21 Tartan wraps
- 22 Auto hood, in
- 23 Incarnate deity
- 26 Regarding
- 28 Verb ending of yore
- 29 Actress Carol et al.
- 31 — lizard
- 32 High regard
- 33 Peter Wimsey's creator
- 36 Museum staff members
- 39 Swirled
- 40 " — for Life": Kirk Douglas movie
- 41 Noise
- 48 Spring months
- 48 Sign for another hitch
- 49 Farthest from the outside
- 51 Noon lead-in
- 54 Comply with
- 55 Nerve network
- 56 Strong — ox
- 58 Buckeye State
- 59 Developer's concern
- 61 Flock member
- 62 Ark builder, in Paris
- 63 Sun shade

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

WRAP SCOUR SIEM
HARE WORSE MODE
IDEE ARTEL TITIT
FAT EYES ALLOTS
FRETTER STEER
ORD RAINDROP
ISSUE RHINO OST
COAT DOING ELLA
ERN FEINT HALOS
REDUABLE BUT
SAMOS HASLED
BATTEN SALK EVE
DIOE ANNUL JAIL
TERR IRATE OSTE
HEMS RAIGED YEAS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q 9 7 5 2

♥ 5

♦ 8 4 3

♣ A J 6 4

WEST

♠ 8 4

♥ A K Q J 8 3

♦ Q 10 7 2

♣ 3

EAST

♠ 6

♥ 9 6 4 2

♦ K J 9

♣ Q 10 9 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A K J 10 3

♥ 10 7

♦ A 6 5

♣ K 7 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ 2 ♥ 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥

Don't be too eager to commit yourself to a specific line of play. A finesse that was destined to succeed at trick two will work equally well at trick 10 or 11!

North's preemptive jump to four spades worked extremely well. Because of the double fit in the red suits, five hearts by East-West would be defeated only one trick, but the vulnerability made it too risky for East to enter the fray.

West led the king of hearts and, when East followed with the deuce to indicate he was prepared for a switch, West shifted to the two of diamonds. It might seem that the fate of the contract now hinged on the club finesse, but declarer elected to postpone that decision until more was known about the distribution.

Declarer captured the king of diamonds with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps and ruffed the remaining heart in dummy. Now came the key play—declarer led a club to the king and exited with a diamond. West won the trick with the ten, but the defense was in its death throes.

If West cashed the queen of diamonds, his forced red-suit return at the next trick would allow declarer to ruff on the table while disposing of a losing club from hand. If West put East on lead with a low diamond to the jack, that worthy would have an additional means of committing suicide—besides conceding a ruff-stuff, East could lead a club into dummy's ace-jack tenace.

What if West could win the third diamond and lead a club? Then declarer, having exhausted all other possibilities, would have to fall back on the club finesse to try to land the contract.

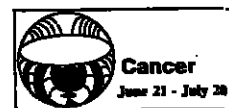


YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be in high spirits and will be able to have a pleasant day. Choose your company a little more carefully. Your experience will help you to make the right decision. Be affable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will have a bit of good luck but not quite in the way you would have preferred. Have a little more faith in yourself and confidence in others. You should not take too much for granted just now. Be respectful.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Your emotions will tend to run away with you, try to keep them under control but do not suppress them. You should not trust too much too soon to an acquaintance. You will enjoy spending a little while with a hobby. Be reliable.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You should make sure that you behave towards a friend with the right degree of affability. You should make sure you do not get into bad habits or do things merely out of habit. Once you have made up your mind, stick to it. Be reasonable.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

There will be some small problems today and they will tend to make you rather nervous. You should try to be more patient and understanding. You should not attempt to get your own back instead forgive. Be moderate.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

With a little more forethought you will be able to master a rather complex situation. You are more liable to make mistakes so look out for them. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 39. A mystery will be cleared up. Be less extravagant.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

You will be able to have a good frank talk. However you must take care not to give offence. A promise you have made should be kept at all costs. Keep your wits a bit more about you. Be resourceful.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You are more liable to mislay things so take special care to avoid so doing. You should have a little more faith in yourself but you must not delude yourself. Do not make a promise that would be hard or worse to keep. Be honest.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will have what seems like a good idea but should reflect upon it; perhaps it is not so good after all. Avoid losing sight of your objectives. Something you have been learning will now become easier. Be specific.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will be able to make amends for something you did wrong and should do so. You will be able to avail yourself of a good opportunity. Do not place too much reliance on mechanical devices. Be generous, but not to a fault.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20

A temptation to spend recklessly must be restrained. Do not allow others to take advantage of you, but nor you of them. You will be able to do a friend a favour and he will be grateful for it. Be helpful.

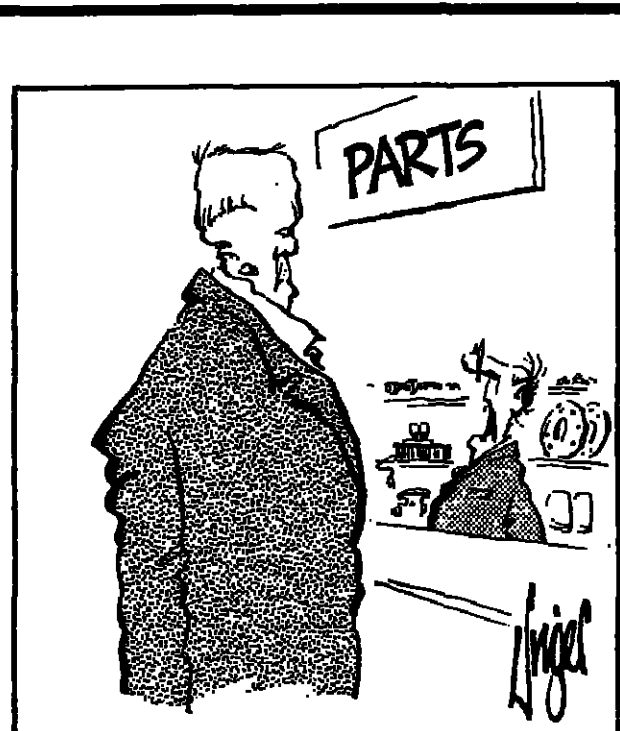


Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

You are more liable to delude yourself by being aware of the trend you can forecast it. Something you have been learning will now prove its usefulness. Try to take your mind off work for the day. Be tactful.



"Quit fooling around!"



"A what?"

SNIPPETS

Carnap men invade rich men's villages: Carnap men have shifted their operations from parking lots to plush subdivisions in Metro Manila. Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG) chief Brig. Gen. Manuel Bruan said.

Bruan cited Magallanes village in Makati, Better Living in Paranaque, West Ave., in Quezon City and Sampolac as the favourite areas of operation of car thieves and Lancers, Toyotas and Nissan Sentras as the most sought after vehicles.

One of the latest victims of car thieves was a niece of Sen. Victor Ziga whose Nissan Sentra was stolen by three armed men while she was buying from a grocery store in Better Living, Bruan said.

Bruan urged homeowners in subdivisions to advise their security forces to co-operate with his men. CHPG operatives are not authorised to enter subdivisions without the consent of homeowners, he said.

CHPG records show that at least 73 stolen cars have been recovered since Jan. 1, 67 of which were found in Metro Manila.

Bohol cop sacked: Cebu City — The National Police Commission has dismissed a policeman who killed a farmer in Sagbayan, Bohol in 1988.

Central Visayas Napolcom regional director Benigno S. Dacanay, said that Pat Avelino Villares, of the Sagbayan, Bohol was dismissed from the service for killing Alberto Razon, a farmer in Barangay Sta Cruz, Sagbayan on May 10, 1988.

Dacanay said Razon was shot by Villares with an ArmaLite rifle during a benefit dance held at a basketball court along the national highway in Barangay Sta Cruz.

Villares claimed self-defense but it was rejected by the commission's adjudication board number three headed by lawyer Raymond S. Riganon, Dacanay said.

On the other hand, the board gave full credence to the testimonies of witnesses who told the board that the policeman struck Razon with his ArmaLite rifle causing him to fall to the ground.

The witness said Villares then shot the victim in the head and breast causing his instant death, according to Dacanay.

Users of illegal booster pumps: The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) warned the public that direct pumping of water from MWSS water mains is prohibited by law. MWSS issued the warning in the wake of reports that many water users install booster pumps to draw water directly from its water mains, depriving their neighbours of water in the process.

MWSS administrator Luis V. Z. Sison said that as a matter of policy, the MWSS only allows the installation of booster pumps when the owner has a ground level reservoir or storage tank filled by gravity from which he can pump water.

Sison warned that violators are liable under Presidential Decree 401-A, which imposes penalties including immediate disconnection of water service or imprisonment and fines ranging from P2,000 to P6,000, or both.

67-year-old accused of raping grandchild: An eight-year-old girl has filed rape charges against the second husband of her grandmother in Binangonan, Rizal.

In her sworn statement to the police, the girl said that on Jan. 9, she was taking a bath when she was raped by Elias Martinez, 67, of 83 Aristorenas St., San Carlos Heights Subd., Tayman, Binangonan. Her mother was in Antipolo looking for a job, she said.

Martinez allegedly ordered the girl's brother to leave the house and then pushed the girl inside the bathroom and raped her.

The victim's mother had her daughter examined by Capt. Emmanuel Aranas of PFX Criminal Laboratory who found the victim had indeed been raped.

The case was filed before the Antipolo municipal trial court, Branch I. It was docketed as Criminal Case No. 090-01.

Judge Candido delos Santos recommended no bail for Martinez saying the crime was "statutory rape."

Martinez' lawyers filed a motion of the court's ruling.

The victim's mother was surprised to learn that Martinez had been released from police custody after the court allowed him to post a P50,000 bail.

QC cop ousted for rape: Capcom Chief and Metropolitan Police Force director Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre has been dismissed from the police service a Quezon City policeman for raping a 16-year-old housemaid in his mother's house in San Andres Bukid, Manila four months ago.

Aguirre dismissed Pfc. Eduardo Cabugwang who has been absent without official leave (AWOL) since the pre-trial investigation of the case.

Records showed that the housemaid, of Philand Subd., Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City, was charged with qualified theft by her employer Evelyn Castillo on Sept. 19, 1989. Pfc. Cabugwang took her in his custody.

An inquest prosecutor set the case for further investigation and ordered the release of the housemaid.

The policeman instead brought her to a house in a squatter colony in Balintawak, Quezon City where he molested her, the records said.

Cabugwang then watched a movie with the maid before he brought her to his mother's house where he raped her again and again, the records said.

When the maid's employer, Castillo, discovered the rape, she confronted the policeman but he cursed and threatened her. "Huwas kang lulukoluko rito. Teritoryo ko ito at kahit babae ay sinasalvage ko, the records said.

Western Police District men rescued the housemaid on Oct. 18, 1989.

Pregnant woman mauled: A nine-month pregnant woman suspected of stealing a TV set was mauled by angry residents in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Nora Tuazon, 38, of 13 V. Luna Road, Barangay Pinahan, Quezon City, was badly bruised when she was rushed to East Avenue Medical Center in the city.

Tuazon was later released from the hospital and then turned over to police by Barangay Captain Francisco Salao Jr and other Barangay leaders.

Tuazon was about to board a tricycle with the TV set of Mary Anne Pasquin when the mob caught her.

At the police station, Quezon City Sgt. Bobby Atienza identified Tuazon as the same person who stole some P10,000 worth of assorted jewelry from his wife last year.

"Talang papatayin siya ng mga tao kung medyo naantala ang dating namin," the barangay captain said. "Pero kung nagkataon na hindi siya buntis at kung naging lala ki lang siya, pababayaan ko narin siya."

Tuazon admitted the accusations against her and told *People's Journal* that she stole because she needed money for her maternity needs. She is supposed to give birth not later than March 10, she added. She is detained at the Quezon City theft and robbery jail.

'Acting like a thief,' man shotgunned to death: A contract worker "acting like a thief" was shotgunned to death by a security guard along Ayala Avenue, Makati yesterday.

Contract worker Cayetano Lapitan, 49, of Liptong, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, did not reach the Makati Medical Center alive after he was shot by security guard Mario Sunga, 37, of Premium Security and Investigation Agency (PSIA).

Sunga's colleague, Ernesto Geda, 45, of Ayala Police Detachment, claimed that Lapitan was "acting suspiciously" behind a tree when he and Sunga were patrolling along Ayala Avenue near the corner of Buendia Avenue at about 3 am yesterday.

When Sunga got down from his car, he was met by a hail of stones coming from the tree where Lapitan was hiding.

Sunga chased Lapitan and then fired his 12-gauge Squire Bingham shotgun in the air to warn Lapitan.

Tondo man slain: A man was shot to death yesterday by three men while cleaning a policeman's jeep in front of his house in Tondo.

Edgardo Cabuyo, 29, of 1219 Sto Nino St., Tondo, died instantly from 11 gunshot wounds in the different parts of the body.

Pfc. Vernon Ponciano, 38, of the Manila police theft and robbery section, trade shots for about 10 minutes with the suspects but was not hurt.

Homicide probes Patrolmen Ben Ines and Nelson Napao-it said Cabuyo was cleaning Ponciano's jeep when three men arrived.

The men, armed with 45s and a .38 revolver, shot Ponciano who was seated in a chair nearby but missed. Instead, they shot Cabuyo repeatedly.

Cabuyo's sister, Emelene, 34, said she suspects that the men who killed her brother were the same men who shot and seriously wounded their other brother last Jan. 1.

Annette Lichauco in a world of babes

IF only she sets her mind to it, Annette A. Lichauco could very well keep cousins Kris and Jackie Aquino steady company in the stellar world of showbusiness. However, the winsome "baby" of Ernesto and Maur (nee Aquino) Lichauco prefers to shine in her own sphere—that of pedagogy. Only 24 years old, Annette is well on her way to fulfilling a childhood dream: that of establishing a learning institution for pre-schoolers and the mentally impaired.

"Being the youngest of five children, I've always missed the feeling of having a little brother or sister to play with, so maybe that's one of the reasons why I'm very fond of children," says the charming teacher. The love for education has been inculcated in all the Lichauco siblings, and each has a post-graduate diploma to be proud of. Eldest brother Anton obtained his master's degree at Columbia University; sister Zasa earned her MA in Boston and is now married to an oral pathologist; George finished his MBA at North-Western University, while Dan will be graduating this May with an MA in architecture from the University of Michigan. Annette herself took Child Development at UP Diliman before pursuing her master's degree in Special Education at Boston College, where she graduated last year. Says Annette of their family's academic tradition, "Our parents always tell us that they cannot give us a good husband or a good wife—only a good education. So they encouraged us to complete our studies, from nursery to a postgraduate course."

Right after completing her Boston schooling, Annette and her close friend Gina Estayo (her roommate in the States) proceeded to put their own nursery, right at the Lichauco's New Manila home. In September 1989, the Young Learners Collaborative was born.

Annette could not remember ever losing temper with children. "I love kids and everything about them—their inquisitiveness, their innocence, their purity of thought... Even in family reun-



ions, I'm usually found playing with the little ones, rather than mingling with cousins my age. I plan our Christmas programmes, birthday parties... Now that a lot of my younger cousins are growing up to be teenagers, I help them with their adolescent problems. You know, crushes, peers, and all those juvenile concerns. I like being their 'aunt'.

The young schoolmarm has had three years of actual teaching experience behind her. Two have been spent at UP, where she had her college practicum as a teaching assistant. The other year was part of her curriculum in Boston, where Annette was assigned to teach a class of three to five-year-old autistic children. Autism is a form of infantile psychosis where a child becomes detached from his environment and becomes absorbed or isolated in his own

world. This illness is characterized by difficulties in oral expression, a tendency to withdraw from social contact, sudden tantrums or bouts of hyperactivity, among other extreme behaviours. Tending several impaired and emotionally-disturbed children for hours on end can be extremely exhausting, physically and mentally. But it is for these "special" cases that Annette has developed a soft spot. "These children are locked up in their own world, and sometimes, they do not respond no matter how hard you try and reach out. But I never found that frustrating. What inspires me is knowing that these kids need my time and attention because they cannot function like the regular tykes. This understanding makes me want to help them more, to get through them."

Despite her attachment to special kids, she only has one such pupil among the 14 students enrolled at the Young Learners Collaborative. This is mainly because she doesn't think her school is ready to handle the needs of more developmentally-delayed children at the moment. "Hopefully," she averred, "we could grow enough to accommodate more pupils in a separate special class. That's definitely one of our plans."

Annette takes pride in what she and her partner, Gina, have accomplished so far. "Up to now, I look at my classrooms and still can't believe they're mine. Not so long ago, this school was just a dream. And now, it's here. And it's mine! It's exciting because now, I can really put into practice all the learning and ideals I've accumulated at the university. A lot of my friends used to ask me, 'Why do you have to take up an MA just to teach children their ABCs?' It may sound funny, but we forget that teaching is not just rote-learning pupils how to read and write. Children come into this world

like sponges—they absorb everything they encounter. So teachers have to be careful about what they relate, especially if they're handling students who are in their formative years. If they don't get a good foundation, it affects them for life."

At the YLC, the pupils are divided into two classes: Nursery 1 (two to three years old) and Nursery 2 (three to five years old), with Annette and Gina handling one class each. The three-hour sessions are interspersed with both academics and educational games, where kids are directed to pick up bits of learning even during playtime.

"We don't grade the children in terms of numbers. Instead, we give their parents a narrative report on how they perform in all areas of development from day to day," explains the beaming teacher. After a child accomplishes the tasks of his present level, then he is moved to a more advanced class.

Surprisingly, the rules of the classroom are not strictly imposed by the teachers, but are simple pointers

formulated by the students themselves. "All the kids gave their own ideas, and we came up with rules like no hitting, no kicking, no biting, saying 'please' and 'thank you'." Very simple, yet important guidelines like that. Then we had these rules written on our bulletin board, so whenever someone misbehaves, we remind him that these came from you and you should always follow them." A microcosm of democracy, we might add.

Listening to Annette gush over her school and the toddlers enrolled in it may very well give you the impression that her whole life revolves around her profession. In a way, this is true. She admits that all her energy is concentrated on her fledgling institution. But she's not afraid of the old belief that dedicated teachers end up as old maids. She chuckled lightly at the idea, then remarked, "No, I don't think that will ever happen to me. I budget my time. My weekdays are spent at YLC, but Saturdays and Sundays are for leisure. I make it a point to see my friends and go out with them. You know, shopping, watching a movie... Fortunately, I still have a social life!"

A lot of people feel that Annette is too pretty and vibrant to be confined to the four walls of a classroom, and not a few modeling or showbiz offers have come her way. But she has consistently turned these down, giving her love for education her undivided interest. This country has enough celebrities. What it needs are better teachers. "Values have gone down," she opined, "so we have all sorts of delinquency. But if we can mold the younger ones, then we can preserve the following generations." This is what Annette aims to achieve in her own way, starting out with her handful of babes at the YLC.

Annette Lichauco, with all her good looks, intelligence, social and political affinity, could have chosen a more spectacular road to success. But as she faced the turning points in her life, this presidential niece decided to go for the less-travelled avenue. "When I was in the States, I came across a saying that had so much impact on me. I said, 'I touch the future because I teach. And that's true. With this reality in mind, I've found more strength and determination to go on.' Guided by this, Annette continues to passionately pursue what is, perhaps, the noblest of professions.



Imelda Marcos, surrounded by press and federal police, heads into court to be arraigned on racketeering charges.

Imelda Marcos goes on trial

By William M. Reilly

NEW YORK, (UPI)—Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, forced from her homeland and now pleading poverty, goes on trial this week on charges she and former president Ferdinand Marcos looted the Asian nation's treasury.

The strong-willed widow, often called the "steel butterfly," has been living a low-profile life in Hawaii since the death of her husband last September. That will end, however, when she shows up in Manhattan Federal Court Tuesday to face charges of fraud, conspiracy and obstruction of justice. She faces a possible 20-year sentence.

The former first lady is charged with conspiring to steal Philippine government funds and hiding the money in lucrative Manhattan real estate investments.

Marcos will go on trial with Saudi Arabian financier, Adnan Khashoggi, who faces charges of obstruction of justice and fraud, in allegedly helping to conceal the Marcos' interest in the real estate.

Five other people also were indicted in the case.

Throughout her ordeal, Marcos, often ridiculed for her extravagant tastes and behemoth shoe collection, has maintained a proud demeanour, even charming onlookers at her arraignment at which she was fingerprinted like a common criminal.

Prosecutors say Marcos, with the aid of Khashoggi, siphoned

more than \$100 million from her country's treasury before fleeing the "people power" revolution in 1986 that gave Corason Aquino the presidency. The indictments covered only a small portion of the billions the Marcoses allegedly stole from their homeland.

Khashoggi, the flashy millionaire and one-time friend of royalty and presidents, is confined to the New York metropolitan area by an ankle bracelet that alerts law enforcement officers if he leaves the region without authorisation.

Khashoggi also emerged as a key middleman in the Iran-Contra scandal, which involved US arms sales to Iran and the private airlift to resupply the Nicaraguan Contra rebels at a time when Congress had banned official US aid.

After leaving the Philippines, the Marcoses settled in a comparatively modest ranch style home in Honolulu.

Her lawyer, John Bartko, said that despite her notoriety, Marcos is no longer a wealthy woman.

He said the Philippine government had effectively frozen Marcos' assets "anywhere in the world" and the couple had been living on borrowed funds since coming to the United States.

Marcos' \$5 million bail was posted by New Jersey tobacco heiress Doris Duke. But when Marcos arrived in New York for her arraignment in November 1988, she stayed in an \$1,800-a-

day suite at the Waldorf Towers. During the trial she reportedly plans to stay in an apartment provided by friends.

The trial begins after a series of pretrial judicial defeats for the defendants.

Last Tuesday, US District Judge, John Keenan, cleared his desk of all pretrial motions when he refused to let Khashoggi stand trial on his own.

Keenan rebuffed attempts to either dismiss or weaken the 1988 indictment. Those attempts even included a claim the former first lady was kidnapped from the Philippines.

In December attorneys for Imelda and the government met to discuss a possible plea agreement, which she rejected.

The prosecution reportedly has some 50 witnesses lined up, including Rodolfo Arambulo, 56, a bank official who was indicted in the case and pleaded guilty to one count of fraud.

The two defendants appeared in court Friday for a conference on jury selection.

The trial is expected to go into July, with the government case alone taking up to three months.

A civil racketeering suit also was filed last year against Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos to recoup any proceeds the former first couple may have received from the alleged racketeering scheme.

The complaint, filed in Federal Court, in Manhattan asked that the proceeds be distributed to the victims of their crimes, presumably the people of the Philippines.

Hot singles: take your pick

● **KAPAYAPAAN** — Various Artists (WEA). After *After Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo* — the EDSA Revolution anthem — Jim Paredes comes up with this song for the benefit of Artists for Peace. Top OPM luminaries from WEA — Apo, Celeste, Gary, Gino, Janet, Jose Maari, Kuh, Marco, Sheryl and introducing Camille, Samantha and 14-K — compose the group. To all rebel soldiers: Please heed the call.

● **How Am I supposed to Live Without You** Michael Bolton (OctoArts). Originally done by not-too-recent Manila visitor, Laura Branigan, *How Am I...* is reshaped by songwriter-turned-solo-act Michael Bolton. If you're familiar with James Ingram's style — prolonging a note by utilising the *kulot* system (ie. singing high and low notes in ending a phrase) — Bolton is not far behind for he is soul personified.

● **Romanica** — James Taylor (Alpha). This is not the one who gave us *You've Got a Friend*, but the voice behind *Celebration* and *Cherish* by Kool & the Gang. Yes, Miss Pakakak. James Taylor has gone solo. Lifted from the LP, *Master of the Game*, this single has all the right ingredients — state-of-the-art studio tricks, catchy chorus — needed to make a sumptuous meal. In short, it's very Top 40-ish.

● **No Friend of Mine** — Club Nouveau (Wea). Let's boogie for a while with this cut by Club Nouveau. There's no catchy hook or a different beat a la *Rumors* this time, only loud backbeat and heart-stopping bass line. But, hey, there's the not-to-be-snobbed rap part in the middle, so rejoice, disco freaks. Expect a massive promo blitz by the WEA dancers in various television shows.

● **Sa Kanya** — Ogie Alcasid (OctoArts). Written by the Neocolours' vocalist, Ito Rapadas, and arranged by current hot property, Jimmy Antiporda (he's also with the Neocolours), *Sa Kanya* is Top OPM at its best. After the surprisingly certified gold record, *Nandito Ako*, Ogie "Bonsai" Alcasid has got another smash in his small hands.

● **I'll Be Good to You** — Quincy Jones featuring Ray Charles & Chaka Khan (WEA). Culled from Quincy "The Master" Jones' latest album, *Back on the Block*, this single, originally recorded by The Brothers Johnson in the 70s, who reinvented bass

playing via the thumping style, can only be described in one word: OUTASIGHT. Pardon the pun, Mr. Charles.

● **Lambada** — (OctoArts). The Solid Gold Dancers introduced us to this Brazilian song but Ivory beat Octo to the draw in coming up first with a dance contest in *East Bulaga!* I'm sure *Lambada* is currently selling like hot fishballs, but the profits will be shared by two competing companies — Ivory Fishballs & Spicy Sauces and OctoArts. Tubog-Tubog Co. Equal distribution of wealth, di ba?

● **Sagot ng Puso** — Sheryl Cruz with Romnick Sarmenta (WEA). Rumored lovebirds, Sheryl and Romnick, deliver a mushy, syrupy and sweet-sweet ditty lifted off the former's debut LP, *Sheryl*.

● **Rock and a Hard Place** — Rolling Stones (OctoArts). The second single (the first was *Mixed Emotions*) from the group's reunion album, *Steel Wheels*, is a hard-edged, lip-biting cut powered by Richard's rhythm guitar, Watts' clockwork drumming and Jagger's never-say-die vocals. Now, who says that rock 'n' roll is dead?

The latest LPs in town

If you want to save time looking for what albums/tapes to buy in your friendly neighborhood record shop, here's our recommended list...

Phil Collins' latest is *...But Seriously* featuring the current hit, *Another Day in Paradise* (adult contemporary). Tracy Chapman's second LP, *Crossroads*, features the compelling title cut (folk). The Ocean Blue's self-titled debut is worth your while (new wave). *Ka papantap Pantao* boasts of 20 Filipino artists for a worthwhile cause (folk).

For those who dig heavy metal, choose your wild: Motley Crue — *Dr Feelgood*; Aerosmith — *Pump*; Slayer — *South of Heaven*; Metal Church — *Blessing in Disguise*; Kix — *Blow My Fuse*.

Jazz aficionados, this list's for you: Al Di Meola Project — *Tram! Su*; Stanley Turrentine — *La Place*; Freddie Hubbard — *Times Are Changing*; Don Pullen — *New Beginnings*; Pat Metheny — *Letter from Home*; Sadao Watanabe — *From Seat*; Randy Crawford — *Rich and Poor*; Joe Sample — *Spellbound*; Earl Klugh — *Whispers and Promises*; The Dick Baule Group — *Measure for Measure*.

Peso rate vs dollar improves

THE peso continued to rally against the US dollar, recouping 14 of the 15 centavos it lost to the American currency on Tuesday.

Thanks to the Central Bank, which pumped \$2 million in the local foreign exchange market.

In spite of the peso rally, foreign exchange traders however remained convinced that this would not be sustained considering the precarious foreign exchange reserves not only of the CB, but also of the entire banking system.

CB's reserves level is now at \$1.7 billion, while amount held by the commercial banking system stands at \$3 billion.

On Wednesday, the CB unloaded \$3 million that helped the peso to bounce back to

P22.743 from a low of P22.85 to \$1. The local currency's parity to the US dollar opened the week on Monday at P22.70.

For the second day since Wednesday, the CB was the major seller in what observers described as a "futile" attempt to rescue the beleaguered peso.

On a volume of \$2 million, the peso's rate to the American dollar went up to P22.743.

The traders said the peso's further depreciation to the P23-P25 to \$1 range this year "is already a given one in view of the wider-than-expected trade gap last year and the projected continued deterioration of the country's trade balance this year, coupled with the rising international

interest rates."

Other analysts are predicting a year-end peso-dollar rate of P24, the prevailing rate in the blackmarket. Imports last year grew by 27 per cent to \$10.4 billion, while export earnings posted a mere 10 per cent growth to \$7.8 billion. This resulted in a swollen trade deficit of \$2.6 billion compared to a little more than \$1 billion deficit in the preceding year.

With Philippine exports forecast to remain weak this year on account of factors such as low production and poor prices for traditional and even some non-traditional export items, observers averred that this year's trade pattern would be similar to that of last year.

LANCILLA

Top marketing post: a piece of cake

DOESN'T she look like presidential daughter Kris Aquino? People who see her for the first time at Faces Disco look twice before telling themselves that no, she is not although there's an amazing resemblance. But who knows? Pretty Marvie Young who is of pure Chinese stock (her mother is a Pe), might be related to the Cojuangcos or might be related to them in the near future. I repeat, who knows?

Anyway, multi-talented Marvie who is marketing director of Faces Disco, has had a wealth of marketing experience even when she was still studying at Assumption Convent.

"When I was in school, I worked for fun. I used to be casting director for several agencies for print or ads models. I would send my classmates to these agencies and I'd receive 30 per cent for my commission."

After she graduated, she found herself handling promotions at Rustan's Department Store. A vacation in the States with her sisters proved to be a working vacation. Marvie, who radiates the wholesome good looks of the young, unflinching enthusiasm and energy, at the same time worked with the San Francisco consulate office as liaison officer.

"I just assisted Peachy Pelaez, a friend of mine, because the Consulate was setting up a convention in connection with Fiesta Island '89. When I came back here, I solicited several prizes on her behalf for the convention. When I solicited from Faces, I was asked by management what I wanted to do at that moment. I'm still undecided, I told them. I might go back to school or work."

Marvie was on a leave of absence at that time from Rustan's and she was offered another job with them handling YAL products.

"But I'm not a merchandising person. I'm really into marketing and promotions so I know I'll not be at home selling products. Rustan's was willing to double my salary but for me it's not the money that counts but love for the job so I can perform well. But I'm still in close contact with the Rustan people especially Nedy Tantoco and Susan Joven. Everytime we have special affairs at Faces, I invite them or I write notes just to say hello."

When the position of marketing director at Faces was vacant, it was offered to Marvie and she accepted it. She knows she can make a go of it, for she loves the job even if people think she's too young for it.

"There's a standing joke in Faces that if you want a job in the marketing division, you should not be older than the marketing director," she laughs. "All of us are young there, only in our early 20's. I'd like to give my generation the opportunity to give and sell new ideas especially in a competitive business like discos. I make position papers for the target market from A to B. We do not limit our patrons to socialites only but also to businessmen, expatriates, yuppies or what we now call the young tigers. It was Faces which coined "young tigers" in place of yuppies. Within the Pacific range, the Philippines is a young tiger which has an opportunity to grow and prosper and become one of the best in Asia. So, young people who go there are the "young tigers" of the future generation."

Marvie also handles advertising which means she has to come up with several projects to attract patrons to Faces. It's not only the print media that she has to take care of, she also has to create themes for several affairs and happenings at Faces. The marketing division has to go into personalised service like sending cards or messages or throwing small parties for those who patronize Faces or for those people they know.

"Those connected with the public relations department take care of the people who are already present in Faces but we service them before the occasion comes."

This small wisp of a bright girl is also going into international marketing. Faces got into a verbal agreement with PAL for its (Faces) in-house magazine to be strategically placed in the Mabuhay lounges of all PAL planes. The magazine will come out twice a year — in June which is the anniversary issue, and December-January, "to start the year right." It contains pictures of people who frequent Faces, stories about successful parties held there, people behind the scene or what's up in the future. Nice way of advertising the club, isn't it? NO other disco has ever done this before and we say kudos (oops, did we mention a rival disco?) to the young Marvie Young.

In-between her very busy schedule, Marvie is into social and civic work. Her pet project is Boys Town and its wards.

"When I was at Rustan's Susan Joven asked me to think of a project connected to or which would depict Christmas. I suggested that we put a big glass in the middle of each floor of the store, then invited 12 boys from Boys Town to sing Christmas songs. I thought people would only drop coins but later we found out there were 400 and 500-peso bills. I let the boys sing for one hour in every floor and would you believe that we made thirteen thousand pesos in all?"

She did the same at Faces and Faces boss Bobong Velez said he would double the amount of what was in the glass box. When counted, they had six thousand in the glass box and Bobong added six thousand more.

"There are 143 boys from Boys Town but I had only 21, ages ranging from seven to 17. The teachers there have organised a dramatic club, Glee Club and one for those interested in dancing. From the first set of money received, we bought new T-shirts for them which they wore only during Christmas. With the rest of the fund, I talked to the Bank of the Philippine Islands to create a fund for them with three signatories — Philippine Islands to create a fund for them with three signatories — me, one from the Boys Town and one from the Faces management. Like money is to be used only for emergencies and for the choir, like costumes, minus one tapes and the like. My one dream for them is to buy a Karaoke so they can rehearse their songs. Right now, that money is on time deposit and a small amount is set for emergency for their members only."

In spite of the frantic pace of her work, the young lady has managed to talk to people for them to be ninangs or ninongs to the 143 wards of Boys Town, not for financial dole-outs but for ways with which to encourage and inspire them to study, to pray. It is also for such necessities as toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, hankies, etc. They may send letters or notes or visit these neglected boys for them to feel that there are people who care for them even if they are neglected by their parents. Most of them however are orphans or half-orphans.

"I enjoy the business challenge, the creative vitality and even the busy moments of my life. If I can find people who'll help me, well and good. If not, I'll do it myself."

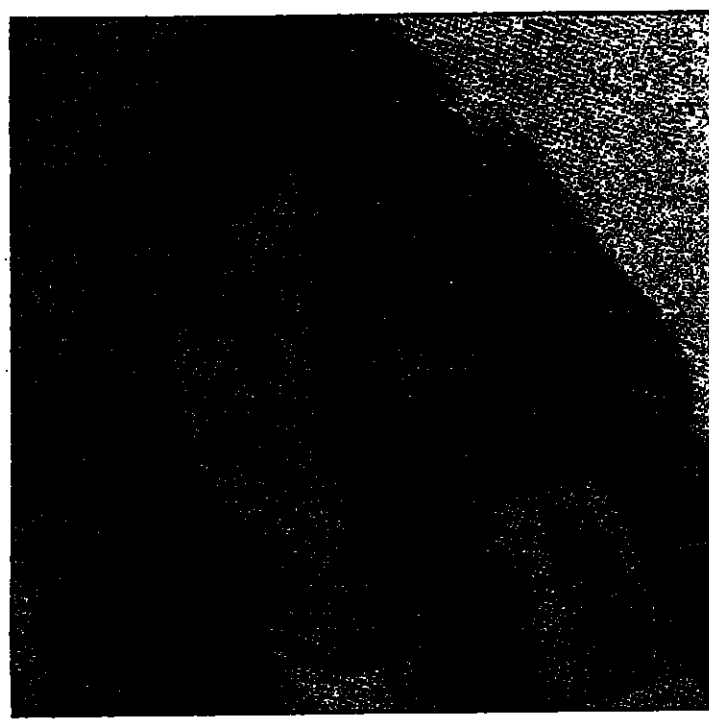
No time for love, dates, etc?

"Oh, yes, I have. No lack of suitors but no one in particular yet. There's one who's persistent but we're still in the "getting to know you" stage. But I'll tell you what I like in a man. He should be tall, physically well-built, well-dressed although not necessarily the designer-brand and very, very intelligent. One with a strong personality at mabango," she laughs.

"But, of course, love is still the main factor. If we have that, we can understand each other's needs and dreams and share each other's ambitions."

What if she falls in love with one who earns less than she does? "Then, I'll save more to pay the bills. Seriously, I'll probably not end up with one because I like my man to be super intelligent and they are the kind who know how to make money so I'm sure he'll learn more than I do."

Marvie speaks Mandarin, Fookien and French which she is now studying. Although she comes from pure Chinese parents, she was born here and speaks English and Tagalog fluently. She's fond of swimming and horseback riding and collects stuffed toys. In fact, her other dream is to own a toy store, one reason why last year, she attended an International Toy Fair in New York. She saw dolls of different kinds and other toys but she's against toys suggesting war.



Sugar makers oppose imports for local needs

GOVERNMENT importation of sugar to meet local requirements at the same time that part of the Philippine production is being sold in the world market was strongly opposed yesterday by sugar producers.

The National Federation of Sugarcane Planters (NFSP) said in a letter to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) that such importation would be detrimental to the sugar industry.

NFSP said it will agree to importation only under certain conditions such as the existence of a real nationwide shortage of sugar and provided that the importation is limited to the estimated shortage and undertaken by the sugar producers as a priority right.

At the same time, NFSP proposed a compromise sugar allocation formula to ensure a steady supply of sugar in the local market and the same time protect sugar producers from the activities of unscrupulous traders.

The proposal, contained in a letter to SRA chairman Arsenio Yulo by Rep. Romeo Gananzon (LDP, Bacolod), NFSP president, seeks to rationalize the allocation of the country's sugar production under various categories: "A" to fill the United States sugar quota, "B" for local consumption, "C" for strategic reserves and "D" for the world market.

The house committee on agriculture chaired by Rep. Leonardo Guerrero (LDP, Cavite) has been holding public hearings on the complaints of sugar producers against certain government policies on sugar.

In the same letter, Gananzon said NFSP will agree to importation only if there is a national shortage certified to by the Department of Agriculture, the SRA and the Department of Trade, and is recommended by the National Council of Sugar Producers and approved by the President.

The importation, he said, should be handled by the producers as a priority right, and the volume should be limited to the estimated shortage. It should also be based on guidelines to be issued by the interagency committee on sugar, he added.

From the provinces

SAN PEDRO: The father of the number one councillor of San Pedro, Laguna has been charged with attempted homicide and grave threats before the San Pedro municipal trial court in connection with the shooting of a teacher recently.

In her complaint, Zenaida A. Abanilla, a teacher of the Quality Kindergarten School, and a resident of 608 Masambahin St., United San Pedro Subdivision, said that Efrén Almoro, also of USPS, fired his shotgun at her but missed as she was able to parry the shotgun's barrel.

The attempted homicide charges against the Almoro, father of San Pedro councillor Roy Almoro, was docketed as criminal case number 16244 before the municipal trial court (MTC) of San Pedro while the grave threat charges was docketed criminal case number 16243.

QUEZON CITY: The Office of the Ombudsman was urged by a book distributor to speed up the investigation and disposition of a complaint filed against Quezon City government officials in connection with the purchase of encyclopaedia to the city government.

Through lawyer Arturo M. de Castro, Filmarke Enterprises, distributor of Lexicon Universal Encyclopaedia, told Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez the speedy investigation of the case was necessary because its name "was unduly dragged into it although we have not been named as a respondent."

The complainant was identified as a certain David F. Jimenez who, however, cannot be found in the address in his unverified complaint, according to De Castro.

He said the publicity about the complaint "is damaging" Filmarke and violated a law that proceedings and investigation by the Office of Ombudsman should be confidential before a finding of the existence of a prima facie case.

The early disposition of the complaint will prevent the Office of the Ombudsman "from being used as an avenue to unfairly smear the names of innocent parties through adverse publicity orchestrated by the people behind the filing of the complaint," De Castro said.

De Castro said that there was nothing irregular in the sale of the Lexicon encyclopaedia to public libraries.

CAGAYAN: An unidentified man threw grenade into a passenger bus, killing one person and seriously wounding 12 others in Cagayan de Oro City, reports reaching Camp Crame said.

A report to Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC-INP chief, by the Constabulary Regional Command 10 identified the fatality as Matu Sail Waga, 25, of Cagayan de Oro City.

Waga was hit directly by the grenade, killing him on the spot. A German national, identified as Ludin Gerhard, was seriously injured, the military said.

Constabulary investigators could not yet determine the motive of the attack, although they suspected that it was part of terrorist activity by the Moro National Liberation Front in the South.

Reports said a USA Bus Lines unit was on a holiday trip in the city when a man hurled grenade into it. The bus was then loading passengers at the corner of Borja and Raja streets.

Bystanders chased the man, but they lost him in a crowded street, it was reported.

In Albay, a constabulary officer was killed when he prevented another soldier from throwing a grenade into a PC detachment in Guinobatan.

Killed was Staff Sgt. Reynaldo Cordova of the PC Maserawag Assistance Centre.

MANILA: A 53-year-old woman died when she was trapped in a one-hour fire that gutted a six-door residential-commercial apartment in Sta Ana, Manila.

Damage to property was placed at P1 million.

Capt. Wenceslao Ealdama, chief of the arson section of the Western Police District (WPD), identified the victim as Pascuala Jamotilla of 2005 Pedro Gil St., Sta Ana. The body was found by paramedic teams of the Manila Fire Department on the ground floor of the two-story apartment.

Investigators said the fire started on the ground floor of Jamotilla's rented apartment.

She was trapped on the second floor, according to her daughter, Aurora, who was able to run out of the apartment.

Traffic of Tejeron and Pedro Gil Streets clogged as a result of the fire. Metro Manila traffic aides and policemen rerouted the flow of traffic to give way for responding firetrucks of the Manila central fire station.

AURORA: Some 70 critical watershed areas in Aurora province are now the focus of attention by the Aurora Integrated Area Development (AIADP).

A rehabilitation programme for the Aurora watersheds is based on hydrological and soil surveys done with the use of aerial photographs and satellite imagery. The survey was conducted by the watershed management and land use study teams.

The programme, which aims to rationalize the use of lands in the upland areas as well as provide water supply for drinking, irrigation and power generation, rests mainly on watershed protection and management.

A joint Department of Environment and Natural Resources-AIADP rehabilitation-protection programme for the Diamanan watershed in Aurora was earlier declared by a presidential directive as a critical watershed.

LAOAG CITY: Six army troops and a civilian believed to be members of a robbery gang in Ilocos Norte were arrested recently by police operatives, Camp Juan authorities said.

Police chief Maj. Ricardo Antalan reported to provincial PC-INP commander Lt. Col. Jose Dalumpines that the suspects admitted participation in a series of robberies last December.

The cases included the holdups of a Philippine Rabbit bus and Gina Liner bus in San Nicolas town and Barit, Laoag, respectively, Antalan said.

The soldiers, he said, were disarmed upon the order of their superior, Col. George Moleta, chief of the 503rd Army infantry brigade.

They are now detained at the PC stockade and city jail, pending the filing of criminal charges against them.

BALANGA, Bataan: At least 1,000 Army soldiers participated in major offensive operations to beat the March 30 deadline set by their commander to crush the New People's Army (NPA) group in Bataan.

Col. Rene S. Dado set the March 30 deadline when he took over as commander of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade based in this province shortly after the coup attempt last December. He replaced Brig. Gen. Liberato Manuella who retired from the service.

Dado fielded soldiers in full battle gear to pressure the communist NPA rebels into submission and punish those who chose to fight. He said the rebels were on the run after the seizure last week of their highly sophisticated radio network in Abucay.

The brigade chief said that suspected lairs and fronts of the NPA rebels were among the targets of the military offensive operations. He called on the local officials to help in "crushing the NPA operations" to make Bataan a more peaceful place.

ZAMBOANGA CITY: A group of 15 heavily armed men, believed to be rebels, attacked barangay Upper Bungayao, this city, burned several houses, shot dead three persons, including a former army soldier, and wounded two others.

Earlier, the same armed group reportedly ambushed a logging truck, killing four hitchhikers, including a barangay councilman, in nearby barangay Lubigan.

Zamboanga police station commander Maj. Edwin Soledad identified the fatalities in the raids as Edgardo paez, 35, a former soldier, Rosalio Labrado, 22, and Dodong Halao, 24.

The wounded were Hadjaran Baacal, 36, and his brother Isa, 18. Soledad said the attackers, armed with ArmaLite rifles, swooped down on the mountain village, looted several houses which they later burned, then fired upon the fleeing residents.

Three of the four hitchhikers killed in the ambush were identified as Juanito Ocampo, 40, barangay council member, Nahaniel Villamor, 34, and Eduardo Alviar, 30, all residents of

barangay Pulong. The truck driver, Ignacio Villama, was seriously wounded.

The truck carrying logs was returning to Zamboanga City from barangay Lubigan when the armed men opened fire at it.

DAVAO CITY: A group of businessmen has lauded NAIJA customs collector Zafiro Respicio for adopting effective measures to minimize, if not eradicate, smuggling and extortion in the port's arrival, departure, and baggage assistance areas.

Through their spokesman Seneca P. Bertulfo, vice-president for operations of the Sember Media Systems, the businessmen said Davaocenos "are proud of Respicio for his singular achievement of restoring the good image of the customs bureau in the airport through his consistent drive of reshuffling misfits and undesirables."

"President Aquino was not mistaken in getting Respicio as NAIJA collector for the confidence and trust of the public in the bureau is gradually being regained as evidenced by the absence of complaints from arriving passengers," Bertulfo said.

He noted that the collector has also refused attempts by some of his provincemates to use the influence of his office in the facilitation of their transactions with the port's customs house.

Bertulfo added that although Respicio has incurred the wrath of some elements in the bureau, he had remained consistent in his drive to eradicate graft and corrupt practices as directed by President Aquino.

PASIG: Police seized P700,000 worth of "shabu" and drug paraphernalia and arrested nine suspected drug pushers and users in separate raids in Las Pinas and Pasig.

Reports reaching the PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) said the first raid was at about 6 pm at 215 Plaza St and No. 2 JB Apartment, both in Las Pinas.

The raiding team led by Sgt. Juan Vizcarra nabbed Felipe San Miguel, 50, businessman; Antonio Leona, 34; Reynaldo Rafael, 32; Ernesto Lagas, 41; Mario Olis, 36, tourist guide; Roberto San Miguel, 39; Disdada Escal, 37 and Elizabeth Salipada, 16.

Seized from them were P700,000 worth of "shabu" paraphernalia, a .38 caliber revolver, and a .45 caliber pistol.

A suspected drug pusher was arrested by men of the Metropolitan Police Field Force (MPFF) under Col. Romeo Maguanto. Three grammes of shabu and other drug paraphernalia were seized from Rivera, Capcom said.

All raids were carried out with search warrants. The suspects were taken to police and Capcom headquarters for further interrogation.

MANILA: Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) employees staged a rally against acting Agrarian Reform Secretary Florencio Abad for his alleged favouritism and incompetence.

The employees, led by staff members of DAR general services division, said not one DAR official looked into their complaints.

Abad is reportedly in Cotabato, and his top aides were said to be absent.

The DAR employees assailed the non-payment of their salaries for the past two months and the dismissal of employees for unknown reasons.

MANILA: Magotteaux Far East Pte Ltd held a seminar on new developments in grinding technology in cement manufacturing plants at the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden.

Gov. Ricardo Gloria of the Board of Investments (BOI) and Dr. Magdaleno Albarracina of the Philippine Cement Corporation (Philcemcor) were discussants.

The Magotteaux panel includes Jules Spede, director for Far East operation; Christian Delcour, area manager; and Stephen Plapied, industrial engineer. The topics are "How to Reach Maximum Output of a Tube Mill," "How to Reduce the Specific Power Consumption in a Tube Mill," and "How to Get the Best Efficiency Out of a Tube Mill."

The seminar's focus is on increased cement production and yield and the corollary reduced power consumption in mills, easing cement shortage in the country, a procedure practised in Korea and other parts of the world.

Embassy corner

Ambassador Tamano honours Manuel Yan in reception

MANILA Hotel, Feb. 26, 1990:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take this pleasant opportunity to express the deepest appreciation of our Omea organising committee honouring the Acting Foreign Minister, Gen. Manuel Yan with your esteemed presence. The ambassadors to OIC member countries are acknowledging with deep respect the exemplary leadership of undersecretary Manuel Yan in making the Conference-Workshop a great success.

Indeed, may I reiterate that the Conference-Workshop through the interest and support of Secretary Manglapus and undersecretary Yan has achieved important positive results during the last few days. There is a new hope, that our monitoring team can accomplish a positive success in the forthcoming OIC conference to be held in Cairo; the usual threat of chairman Nur Misuari of the MNLF can again, be effectively thwarted for the interest and national security of our country.

It is our hope that as we return to our respective posts abroad, the participants through the knowledge and experience gained in the last concluded Conference-Workshop can strengthen our friendship and close cooperation with the countries we are accredited to, in the context of the basic objectives of mutual interest, respect and dignity.

We look forward that in the forthcoming meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference of foreign ministers to be held in Cairo, our possible presence can contribute constructively, in defending and making more achievements for our just causes for international peace and solidarity.

It is therefore, for us to shift our diplomatic strategy to high gear and solve the problems of our country especially on the economic and trade aspects. One of the solutions, I imagine, is contained in the dramatic accomplishments we have just completed during the last few days of our recent Conference-Workshop.

Let us not distort history to suit our selfish ends. Let us be

men in order to protect and preserve the peace and solidarity we hope to attain.

Last June 20, 1989, Secretary Manglapus delivered his classic lecture before our faculty and students in Jeddah, K.S.A.

In his historic remarks he pointed out that in our country today, "Islam is no longer an isolated reality." It is a national concern because Philippine history is indeed, resplendent with Arab-Muslim reality. This is the reason why in the K.S.A. and Gulf states, the Filipino contract workers is now considered the No. 1 expatriate community, according to a recently-concluded research undertaken by the Stanford Research International.

In the conduct of our foreign relations we have gained a breakthrough, first, the effective information-drive on the peace policy of President Corason C. Aquino on her concern to set up the autonomous structures of what is now the Muslim Mindanao autonomous region indeed the new "morning star" rising to enlighten the expected development and progress of the Filipino Muslims in the southern Philippines. This drive is basically premised on the "national recognition of and respect for Islam as part of the Filipino heritage."

Second, is the recognition by our government for the state of Palestine, accomplished by no other than, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus. Undoubtedly, the Philippines won the goodwill of the Arab and Muslim international community. In return, it is also expected that Palestine and other friends of the Philippines in the OIC countries, shall not support the bid of the MNLF for secession and dismemberment of the country that we love-most as our home.

Third, as we are emerging on the decade of the nineties, let us make a firm resolution to enhance the marketing of our Philippine products abroad especially in the so-called OIC countries and work hard for their investment in our country such as the putting-up of oil refineries, the production of Muslim "halal" foods, and above-all,

protection of foreign visitors, especially in areas of trade and investment in the Muslim Mindanao autonomous region.

It is perhaps also, an objective of our successful Conference-Workshop "the expansion of our information service," especially in the non-distortion of accurate materials as expounded by Secretary Manglapus in his development diplomacy policy statement. We hope, that in the areas of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) a Trade and Investment Information Centre can be established with a Muslim-Filipino media man who is knowledgeable of the Arab and Muslim mind to be the exemplary head. In this context the main objective, is to promote a non-confrontation strategy and a personalised diplomacy in winning the help and support of our Arab and Muslim brothers-in-Islam. It is for this reason, that a Filipino-Muslim journalism expert need tapping to man the proposed IIC preferably for start, in Kuwait City.

In search for "tools of reform" for our demarche, during the recently-concluded Conference-Workshop, we are deeply grateful to:

1. Secretary Jose C. Concepcion, Jr for his plan to visit soonest the Gulf states if not the other OIC countries, come July of this year, 1990;

2. To Secretary Ruben Torres of the Department of Labour and Employment Overseas for his very sincere announcement to assist the "unsung heroes" of our country, today, the FCWS overseas; the constructive inputs suggested by Achacoso Sarmiento, Imson, Ms. Dacanay, Ms. Mangahas, etc;

3. The armed forces of the Philippines for the very timely briefing by Gen. Gavino, and for his appreciation of my past World War II services;

4. To Secretary Edilberto de Jesus of the Peace Commission, Office of the President, for giving us much-needed inputs on the

important roles of the armed forces of the Philippines.

5. The Office of Muslims Affairs through Datu Abdullah Camlian, deputy undersecretary of OMA on the need for their office to be tapped for more laudable roles in making the OMA functional especially in the context of Filipino-Muslim welfare;

6. And a host of other distinguished personalities worthy-mentioning in this most-esteemed gathering particularly Prof. Dr. Enrique P. Syquia, our most outstanding international law expert, whose candidature for distinguished membership in the International Court of Justice we all hope to lobby support.

Last, but not the least, is the exemplary leadership and able advice nurtured always to all of us by Ambassador Pacifico Castro, in reaching a super-ordinate goal for the success of the last-concluded Conference-Workshop.

I thank you.



Ambassador Tamano delivering his speech.

EVENTS



The winners



George Nasar

First Kuwait Strongman Competition

ON Friday, March 9, 1990 Messilah Beach Hotel organised Kuwait's first Strongman Competition. The event was sponsored by Khalifa Al Jassim Company. It was a day filled with excitement and fun.

Ten strong, able bodied men competed to win the title. Each participant had to participate in one of the 6 events scheduled to show off their muscle power and techniques. Winners were chosen for each event.

1. Weight toss - (a tie): 1. Hakim: Toumi. Representing Algedria and Holder of Title — "Arab & African champion in hammer throw". 2. Mahmoud Ahmed Abul. Title: Kuwait Champion — Shot put — Friendship & Peace Games Champion — shot put.

2. Engine Lift: George Nassar, Title: Kuwait under 90 kg weight lifting champion.

3. Truck Load: Abdullah Mohammed. Title: Mr. Palestine & Mr. Kuwait.

4. Truck Pull: Akram Abdul Rassool. From Lebanon — known as "Akram Harb".

5. Endurance: Nabil Al-Safady. Power lifting trainer at Qadisiya Sports Club.

6. Bench Press: Nabil Al-Safady.

The overall titles for the "Kuwait's Strongest Men - 1990" were won by:

Akram Abdul Rassool — First place; Abdullah Mohammed — Second place; Nabil Al-Safady — Third place.

During the day there were other daring displays by Fahmi Derbas who pulled a car with

his right ear. Fahmi Derbas has already been up and down the Kuwait Tower five times. He has also been up the Empire State Building three times. He is also a trainer in the Qadisiya Sports Club.

A special show was put on by the Kyokushinkai karate team. The team displayed various self-defence techniques, including various breaking techniques using two centimetre thick wooden boards. The team has secured the 2nd and 3rd positions in Ibozu Oyama open knockdown championship held in Budapest, Hungary in 1988.

Other side shows and children's games took place in the garden area, in addition to a raffle draw on the entry tickets.

The hotel would also like to extend its appreciation to the companies who participated in the success of the day:

— Khalifa Al Jassim Co.
— Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.
— Winston Cigarettes
— Photo & Cine Equipment Co. Ltd.
— Sea Sports Club
— Al Sulaybikhat Sports Club
— T.E.C. Entertainment City
— Al Rawdattain Water Bottling Co.
— Ideal Home
— Liverstock Transport & Trade Co.
— Kuwait International Hotel
— Isostar
— Nestle-Milo (Al Gharabally Group)



David Bau

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

SAS Hotel
EXHIBITION of water colour and oil paintings as well as stained glass at the lobby until March 20.

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia

Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Holi - Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-a-tees with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Ladies International League of Kuwait upcoming events

L.I.L. Desert Picnic on Friday, March 23, 1990. Members and their guests. For further information and tickets please contact Barbara on 5325131. Deadline for tickets is March 17.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik - Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Badesik Picnic

Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangaf family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik member's are requested to contact general secretary Khalilur Rahman on tel: 4330025 for more details.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990 at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

"Drama"

"BANDHAN" Natya Chakra, a Bengali Drama Group, is going to perform its third stage show a Bengali Drama by the name "Boudir Beey" on 22nd March Thursday 1990 at 5 pm in the Starlight Theatre hall of Doha Entertainment City, Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait, K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest. For entry cards, please contact the following persons: Abdur Rab, tel: 4316823, Jasim Uddin, tel: 2420484, Video A to Z, tel: 3924320.

British Council

Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition: March 10-22 at the gallery. An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshops Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Please book seats by calling 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Bangladesh get-together

A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo. For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Konkani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawali.

For more information contact 4817857.

APPROB

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "the struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the

residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan Embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Rose Fern's drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxé" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

British Council

FOR advice about studying "A" levels or diplomas in many different subjects: come and meet Adrian Gaunt of Solihull International College on March 18, from 5.00 - 8.00 pm in the Education Office at The British Council, 2, Al Arabi St. Mansouriyah. No need to make any appointment, just drop by! We look forward to seeing you.

Do you want to learn English in Britain or maybe you know someone who does? If so, come along the Education Office at The British Council on Monday March 19 or Tuesday March 20. We will be showing videos about language schools in Britain and giving away lots of information about courses, fees, accommodation etc. All are welcome!

Children's Books of the Year 1989 Exhibition - March 10-22 at The British Council Gallery.

Wednesday, March 21, 6.00 pm - Film showing: Asterix in Britain. The Movie. Go back, far back in time when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4.00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. (75 min).

Thursday, March 22, 10.30 am. Story Time by a professional storyteller.

Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

HOTELS

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SAS AL GHAEZER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We

prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip. For reservation, pls. call 5657000 ext 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of mezze - delicious Arabic hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies - prime American beef, Gulf lobster, hamour or zubedi. Enjoy your della at the diwan overlooking the sea. For reservation pls call 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turpiss and chili sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of selections from our chef's recommendations or take your pick from our menu of delightful Chinese cuisine. Make your early reservation, pls. call 5657000 ext 532 or 403.

BISTERETTO: Italian specialty restaurant which also offers international and Arabic dishes. Lunch and dinner buffet, daily. Family day every Friday with brunch buffet for the whole family or let your children choose their favourites from our children's menu. Reserve your table now, pls. call up 5657000 ext 531.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items - juicy burgers, hot french fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus softdrinks and juices.

Le Meridien

AL WAHA Cafe features Crepe Festival until 22nd March. Crepes (thin pancakes) are prepared in front of the guest at a special counter. Choice of dessert fillings include fruit salad with cream custard and strawberry sauce, sliced fruit with orange sauce, strawberry with whipped cream, melba sauce and almond, and sliced banana with chocolate sauce. Choice of topping include chocolate, honey, jam or marmalade, maple syrup and chauntilly cream.

Al Fingan Tea Lounge will feature Bananarama Festival from 18th until 22nd March. One can have a variety of choices of mouthwatering banana sweets such as banana fritters with honey, banana tarte, banana tartelletes, chocolate banana and banana charlotte. Special banana drinks include banana milk shake and banana strawberry cocktail. One can also enjoy our special banana split ice cream.

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Le Meridien

VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch which includes starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

Or in relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artist you can relish the finest cuisine from our A La Carte menu, which features specialties from our chef as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasade", hamour and salmon on "shingle" among others.

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
11.45 Cultural Programme

Evening

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Cartoons
6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: Historical Serial
7.00 Varieties
7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: Local Programme
7.45 Drwaniyat Shuara Al Nabat: Local Programme
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 New In Arabic
9.45 Lil Adala Wa Ahkhar: Arabic Serial (part 5)
10.45 Ghosn Al Ban: Arabic late night feature
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The New Three Stooges. A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Beachcombers. "Twice the pleasure" Constable John enlists Nick and Jesse's to

find the mother of a twin baby girl left in the back of the cruiser. Someone else is looking for the desperate young woman.

7.00 Beyond The Roaring Forests. A look at beautiful scenery in two islands near New Zealand where strange animals, birds and trees are found.

8.00 News in English

8.30 Midnight Caller. "Mac" advises a woman to leave her marital home due to her husband's ill-treatment. His colleague's son considers that this advice can be applied to his case.

9.30 Coach "19-Candle". Hyden celebrates his daughter's nineteenth birthday anniversary. He is surprised when she comes to the party with her boy-friend - Stewart!

10.00 Q.E.D. My Best Friend's Computer. A look at computer games, programmes and new educational and technical methods adopted in this field. Bestseller. A Tale Of Two Cities. Dr. Manette has been imprisoned in the notorious Bastille. His daughter cannot believe that her father still alive. Five years later, Dr. Manette accompanies his daughter into the courtroom where she is a witness. In the dock Charles Darnay is accused of passing secret information to the King of France.

12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Hawali & Nagra
Hadiha Pharmacy
Ibn Khaldoun St.
Sabriya
Al Feda Pharmacy
Khanan St.
Fahad
Adel Pharmacy
Fahad
Kheitan
Ghazwa Pharmacy
Old Kheitan
Al Najah Pharmacy
4th Area

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.35 am
Zohr	11.56
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	5.58
Isha	7.14

Cinema

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Al Sahiyah
D.O.A.
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
North Shore
Al Fatah
Kanon Apna Apna
Fahad
Mera Farz
Fahad
Man of Fire
Al Jahra
Jeanie Ki Arzoo
Granada
Ghar Main Ram Gali Mein
Shyam
Satabhakat
January Man
Jeeb
Peruvampurathe Viseshangal
Ahmed Drive-In
Like Father Like Son

GREEK TAVERNA: Every

Tuesday at La Brasserie. Enjoy a little Mediterranean 'Magic' real Bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialties and atmosphere.

INDONESIAN CORNER:

Every Wednesday at La Brasserie - Enjoy Indonesian cuisine in addition to our daily lavish buffet. Our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Every Thursday at La Brasserie - Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties.

ORIENTAL BUFFET

LUNCH: Every Friday at La Brasserie - Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist.

SPORTS

Daniella Bowling
ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie - Tel: 3715637 or Marianne - Tel: 3720137 before March 26.



O.I.C.C. Arts and Sports wing inaugurated

Varughese Gee, first secretary of the Indian embassy, inaugurated the Art's wing of the Overseas Indian Cultural Congress. Mathur, the second secretary of the Indian embassy inaugurated the sports wing. Kuruvilla (sports convener), Vijayakumar, Thomas Panicker, Sasidharan Nair (president) and Rajan Daniel are also seen in the picture.

LANCOLITA

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The week in business

US jobless rate remains stable

Industrial production up



DHL chief in Gulf

Dawn of a new business era cited

Patrick Lupo, (above) world-wide chief executive officer of air express company DHL, has arrived in the Gulf to review the significant progress of DHL's Middle East operations.

He is examining new technology and service innovations which DHL is introducing throughout the Middle East region, and is due to meet with senior government officials and dignitaries.

Lupo, based at DHL's world headquarters in Brussels, is visiting Dubai and Bahrain, as well as Saudi Arabia, where DHL operates in sole association with SNAS worldwide express.

Lupo said yesterday a multi-million-dollar expansion in the Gulf, citing the dawn of a new business era in the oil-rich region. He told a news conference: "A firm peace initiative in the Gulf war, coupled with oil price stability has seen a new tide of investment sweeping the region, bringing renewed business development."

The company will invest \$3.7 million in more warehouses and service expansion, he said.

DHL, which stands for Dalsey Hillblom Lynn, has been based for 13 years on the central Gulf island of Bahrain, a services centre for the region.

The 1980s witnessed a recession in the Gulf due to the 1980-82 Iran-Iraq war and a drop in oil prices, only reversed in the last year.

"1990 marks the end of a turbulent decade for Gulf business and the dawn of a new era promising fresh opportunities in a revitalised business environment," said Lupo.

US business inventories decline

WASHINGTON, March 17. (AP) US business inventories resumed their slow growth in January after a one-month decline, the government reported Wednesday, but analysts said the 0.2 per cent gain confirms the sluggishness in the manufacturing economy.

The January report is "confirming what we already know, that the area of manufacturing is beginning to slow," said economist Thomas Runiewicz of the Wafa group of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

"We're starting to see rises in paper and chemicals and a lot of basic commodities that are used daily throughout the whole manufacturing industry," he said. "What we're seeing is that as the industry slows down, the demand for commodities slows down."

The Commerce Department said inventories totalled a seasonally adjusted \$795.9 billion, including a steep 0.7 per cent jump in manufacturing backlogs.

Inventories as a whole fell a revised 0.4 per cent in December, the first drop since a 0.1 per cent decline in October 1988 and the largest since a 0.6 per cent fall in December 1986. The December drop was originally reported to be 0.2 per cent.

The Commerce Department also reported a 0.3 per cent increase in business sales to a seasonally adjusted \$532 billion in January after falling a revised 0.2 per cent in December.

IMF loan for Hungary

WASHINGTON, March 17. (AP) The International Monetary Fund announced on Wednesday that it will lend Hungary \$266 million over the next year, its second loan to an eastern European country this year.

On Feb 5 it lent \$723 million to Poland. These loans are small compared with eastern European needs. Hungarian authorities have said they need to borrow \$2 billion this year. But the fund's loans are expected to open the way to more lending from governments and other sources. They are regarded by other potential lenders as a kind of "seal of approval" from the fund's 152 member governments.

NEW YORK, March 17, (UPI): Washington had some good news about the US economy this week with three key indicators signalling that the rate of inflation has been tempered, at least temporarily, against a backdrop of sluggish growth.

The Labour Department reported prices on the wholesale level remained stable in February after rising 1.8 per cent the month before.

At the same time, the Commerce Department said housing starts fell 7 per cent during the month after rising 24.7 per cent in January. New housing permits tumbled sharply last month, falling a record 25 per cent to an annual rate of 1.3 million from 1.7 million in January.

The annual rate of new housing construction in the United States stood at 1.5 million units in February compared with 1.6 million in January, about the same as in February 1989.

The Federal Reserve also reported industrial production rose 0.6 per cent during the month after slipping 1 per cent in January. Much of the advance was attributed to increased production of motor vehicles, but this gain was 5 per cent below the pace of vehicle production in December.

The Federal Reserve said America's factories, mines and utilities were operating at 82.3 per cent of capacity in February, an increase of 0.3 percentage point over January's 82 per cent.

Another report said the unemployment rate remained stable in February at 5.3 per cent for the ninth consecutive month.

The government reports helped send prices up sharply on the New York Stock Exchange Friday in very heavy trading, reflecting buying linked to the "triple-witching hour" expirations. Analysts said the expiration of March stock-index futures and options as well as options on individual stocks contributed to the late rally, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average ending the week at 2741.22, its first close above 2,700 since Jan 11.

On money markets, the dollar, virtually ignoring the indicators, ended mixed Friday, shedding some of the gains made earlier in the week.

Investors were cautiously awaiting the outcome of the East German elections tomorrow to determine the respective strength of the US currency and the Deutsche mark.

In Washington, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady defended the dollar's performance Thursday and said the US currency was stable despite its current surge against the Japanese yen and other major units.

"I hear a lot of talk about the dollar climbing, but if you look at it over the last year and a half... what you'll see is stability," Brady said.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno disappointed world financial markets on Thursday by giving no clear sign he would raise Japan's key interest rate.

There was no clear indication either about the outcome of the talks held by Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday in Tokyo.

Mosbacher said Japan has finally realised the depth of US concern over trade issues and appeared ready to act to help trim the nearly \$30 billion annual US trade deficit with Japan.

Oil prices drifted down on the New York Mercantile Exchange Friday as investors awaited word from the first day of the meeting of Opec's market monitoring committee.

The 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which pumps more than a third of the world's crude oil, was expected to continue squabbling over world prices.

The management of Saks fifth Avenue, the push retail unit of British conglomerate B.A.T. Industries, "Ic, made a joint offer with Japan's Tobu Department Store Co. to buy the 46-store chain from its parent company.

Geoffrey Lurie, an analyst at GDL Management Inc. in New York, warned that Tobu could be just "a pioneer in a new wave of Japanese acquisitions of troubled US retailers.

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Opec wrestles with quota-busting

Kuwait comes under pressure

VIENNA, March 17. (Agencies): Kuwait came under intense pressure at Opec talks today to ease up on a sales blitz that has boosted the country's oil output far above a mandatory quota and threatened world oil prices.

Delegates said the meeting spotlighted Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, even though some others in the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are also exceeding quotas.

Opec sources said the average spot market price for a selected basket of seven key crudes this week apparently slipped below the group's agreed target of \$18 per barrel for the first time this year.

Nigeria, Iraq and Iran were among cash-starved oil producers objecting to Kuwait's aggressive sales policy.

Sheikh Ali's response was not made public by midday, but delegates speculated the talks might end with a statement including a general pledge of better quota discipline.

US oil futures ended down \$30 cents per barrel (42 US gallons) on Friday.

Opec President Saddek Bous-



Sheikh Ali

Some delegates said Opec might have to leave Vienna with little more than some indications from Sheikh Ali that he would reduce sales if prices stay decisively below \$18.

Opec predicts demand for its oil will drop by three million barrels a day between April and June, from recent daily output above 23.5 million barrels.

April to June, between the northern hemisphere winter and the peak summer holiday motoring season when petrol demand booms, is a traditional trough in demand for oil.

Opec President Saddek Bous-

sena of Algeria, concedes that excess supply may cause prices to dip but says they will recover later. A further Opec conference on pricing and output policy for the second half of 1990 is scheduled on May 25.

During an adjournment, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister, Mana Said Al Oteiba, whose country is producing double its Opec quota of one million barrels, said he could not predict if Kuwait would pledge to cut output.

Bousena said everything was still open for discussion in the talks, which ministers hoped could end this evening.

A senior delegate said it was felt that all 13 members, not only Kuwait, should abide more strictly by quotas. But some ministers felt that the Opec secretariat was pitching its forecast of demand for Opec oil too low.

Bousena's hotel suite was the site of today's informal late morning meeting, which lasted nearly four hours. Before adjourning, the ministers scheduled another round of talks for late this afternoon.

"Everything is on the table,"

Bousena said. "We can discuss everything."

He indicated that the officials were exchanging views in advance of a key meeting during which they will set new production and pricing guidelines for the last six months of the year.

Bousena said the agreement hammered out last November for the first half of 1990 remained in place. "We are still abiding by the resolution," he said.

No date has been set for a final session, but Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said, "there are no very serious problems at this meeting."

All nations were expected to be urged to hold production in the coming months to their output targets.

Some worry surging production will lead to softer prices in the April-June quarter when warmer weather dampens demand in the United States and other consuming nations.

Opec nations will have to rein in production by some 3 million barrels a day in the next few months to hold it to the level of demand estimated by the organisation.

Kuwait market picks up

Interventions lead to increase in activity

THE Alshail index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Mar 14, 1990 an average of 40.28 points with an increase of 1.09 point—2.78 per cent—over last week's average of 39.21 points. The Alshail index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.66 points with an increase of 0.18 points—0.28 per cent—for the same period, according to Al Shail weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 51.91 million shares at a daily average of 10.38 million shares with an increase of 95 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 5.31 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1.02 million shares at a daily average of 0.204 million shares with a decrease of 83 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.216 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD22.27 million at a daily average of KD4.45 million, an increase of 145 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.82 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.045 million at a daily average of KD0.009 million, a decrease of 81 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.047 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 63 per cent of total trading against 47 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 39 per cent, followed by The Gulf Bank at 15 per cent and The Commercial Bank at 12 per cent.

The Real Estate Sector came third at 12 per cent in which Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company had the lead at 79 per cent followed by United Realty Company at 16 per cent and Kuwait Real Estate Company at 56 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 51 per cent, followed by The Arabian General Investment Company (SHUA) at 49 per cent.

The market gave signs of activity which was reflected on five of the six indices in both markets. However, the increase in activity was more pronounced in the Kuwaiti market which is considered as more important than the non-Kuwaiti market.

This increase in activity is mainly related to the fact that market investors tended to deal in few companies shares which they believed will increase in prices especially after the recent declarations of the Central Bank of Kuwait which allowed debtors under the debt settlement programme the trading in their assets which are presented as collateral to banks and the willingness of the Gulf Bank to finance investments in the local shares market.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 14/03/90	Wed. 07/03/90	Change points
Banking Sector	130.52	125.25	5.27
The National Bk	31.92	30.15	1.77
The Gulf Bk	24.59	24.15	0.44
The Comm. Bk	32.29	30.28	2.02
Al Ahli Bk	31.44	30.97	0.47
Bk of Kt & ME	30.00	29.14	0.86
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	27.06	26.01	1.04
Burgan Bk			

Kt Finance House	81.57	78.27	3.30
Sector Index	50.44	48.45	1.98
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.72	9.18	-0.46
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	23.16	23.16	—
Comm. Facilities	154.00	148.50	5.50
National Inv.	55.88	55.88	—
Kt. Inv. Proj.	89.89	89.89	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	85.88	89.41	-3.53
Sector Index	31.65	31.70	-0.05
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—
Sector Index	35.74	35.74	—
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	12.11	12.11	—
Utd. Realty	5.35	5.22	0.12
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	61.90	1.59
Sector Index	15.33	15.17	0.16
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	10.22	11.45	-1.23
Ref. Ind.	82.36	84.55	-2.20
Gulf Cables	113.13	108.60	4.53
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
Sector Index	28.76	28.34	-0.58
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmpt. Co.	131.76	140.40	-8.64
Kt. Cinema Co.	7.61	7.61	—
Pub. W'hous Co.	61.62	59.60	2.02
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	35.45	35.91	-0.46
M. Tele. Syst.	357.14	352.38	4.76
Sector Index	59.60	58.90	0.70
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	75.86	73.56	2.30
Sector Index	39.88	38.49	0.39
Overall Index	40.28	39.19	1.09

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 14/03/90	Wed. 07/03/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Int. Bk.	81.38	81.38	—
Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	94.92	—
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	44.70	43.94	0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.25	17.25	—
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	64.66	64.48	0.18
—Base period 31/12/1983.			
—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.			

EEC told to lift tariffs

Closer co-operation needed

MUSCAT, March 17. (Agencies): Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed urged the European Economic Community to lift tariffs on Gulf Co-operation Council products to enhance political and economic co-operation, the Kuwaiti news agency Kuna reported today.

The GCC — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — have protested at continued EEC tariffs on their petrochemical and aluminium products.

"It is our right to expect the European Economic Community to open its markets to our oil and non-oil products as long as our markets are open for European products," Sheikh Sabah told the meeting.

EEC products account for over 40 per cent of GCC imports and the EEC imports the bulk of its oil from the Gulf states.

Commenting on the Luxembourg pact, Sheikh Sabah said "we were optimistic that this agreement would be the beginning of a long-term co-operation."

But what he called the negative attitude of European petrochemical companies with regard to the import of such GCC products had not helped, Kuna quoted him as saying.

The Muscat meeting said closer co-operation was required to solve outstanding disputes and reach a free trade pact.

Teams from both sides are scheduled to meet probably in May to start detailed trade negotiations, EEC officials said.

But the GCC must agree its own internal unified

tariffs scheme before it can sign a free trade agreement with the EEC.

That was postponed for another three years last December to allow the GCC to sort out internal industrial imbalances amongst its members.

Officials

BUSINESS

Taiwanese minister for Indonesia

JAKARTA, March 17, (UPI): Taiwan's Minister of Economy Chen Li-An was expected to arrive in Jakarta tonight, leading an official delegation to discuss the strengthening of trade and investment between the two countries, an official said.

Chen, the highest-ranking Taiwan official to visit Indonesia since the early 1970s, will attend a meeting on energy and discuss bilateral trade with Indonesian officials, an official of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce said.

High-ranking economic officials and executives of Taiwan's state-owned China Petrochemical Development Corp., China Steel Corp., will be among the members of the delegation invited by Indonesia's Mines and Energy Minister Gijun-djar Kartasmita.

Chen will also discuss investments and co-operation projects, the official said.

Chen will attend the first shipment of liquefied natural gas imported by Taiwan. Under a 20-year contract signed in 1986, Taiwan will receive 1.5 million tonnes of LNG from Indonesia annually and will seek supplies of mineral, industrial and agricultural raw materials.

Although both countries do not have diplomatic relations, trade between Indonesia and Taiwan has increased gradually, and amounted to \$1.6 billion last year.

Taiwan's investments in Indonesia run at \$880 million in 1988, one fifth of the \$4.4 billion in foreign investment commitments for that year. Taiwanese investments in Indonesia reached \$1.2 billion in more than 40 projects in 1989.

Earlier this year Indonesian and Taiwanese businessmen signed a memorandum of understanding providing for the establishment of dozens of Taiwanese factories and the training of local workers.

Indonesia is expected to normalise diplomatic relations with China late this year or early on 1991 ending more than twenty years of rupture.

Jakarta broke diplomatic relations with Beijing in 1967 after accusing China of backing a failed communist coup attempt in 1965 that led to the downfall of President Suharto. China has steadfastly denied the allegation.

However, cabinet ministers reaffirmed that the normalisation of the diplomatic ties should not affect Indonesia's trade with Taiwan.

British Airways introduces fourth class

LONDON, March 17, (AP): British Airways has introduced a fourth class for airline passengers.

A British Airways spokeswoman said Wednesday the early response to economy select, available on flights from London to Dallas and Houston, has been "very positive."

Economy select, for passengers paying the full price of economy tickets, has a separate cabin, separate check-in, advance seat reservations, and seats that will recline 3 inches (8 cms) more than those in economy class, the airline said.

The eight-month trial programme began Feb 1 after extensive research, said the spokeswoman, adding that as far as they know British Airways is the first airline to introduce a fourth class.

"Today companies send their executives on full economy fares, which cost more than promotional fares but which have the full flexibility they need for business," said Liam Strong, British Airways marketing director.

"The expectations of passengers who pay £794 (\$1,290) for a round trip ticket to Dallas... will obviously differ from those of leisure passengers travelling on these routes for as little as £299 (\$484) round trip," Strong said.

Bright forecast for Gulf economy

KUWAIT, March 17, (Kuna): The Middle East Financial Directory's (MEFD) 13th edition was published in Kuwait to be circulated on time for the convention here on March 18-19 of the MEFD-sponsored conference on "Gulf banking and finance," the MEFD said.

In an introductory note, the MEFD publisher noted that the Arab world, particularly the GCC countries, will gain more economic strength in the '90s with brighter outlook for oil prices and ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war.

"Their banks will become more sophisticated and certainly grow in assets," it went on, in an advance copy handed to Kuna.

For that reason, the London-based MEFD company decided to print its publication in Kuwait to be closer to Middle East financial news. Based in Kuwait, the publication will be able to ensure "faster updates and field research in monitoring Middle East banking trends," the MEFD underlined.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	17.270
Sri Lanka rupee	7.420
Pakistani rupee	13.820
Bangladesh taka	8.600
US dollar	29.365
UK sterling	47.625
UAE dirham	0.7991
Deutsche mark	17.325
Japanese yen	0.01931

India's GDP growth slows

Employment-oriented strategy urged

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 17: India's annual pre-budget economic survey has called for an employment-oriented strategy that combines growth with equity, a trade policy that aims at rapid export growth to reduce external payments deficit and a fiscal policy that increases savings and contains inflationary pressures.

The survey, presented to parliament by Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, hints that the development strategy pursued so far cannot be sustained. Macro-economic imbalances on fiscal and external account have begun to exact their toll on the overall economic performance, it says.

According to the survey, the performance of the economy during 1989-90 shows signs of slowdown in growth in output. There has been some deceleration in the industrial growth rate. Agricultural production has not increased much beyond the peak levels reached in the previous year.

Prices have remained under pressure despite a normal monsoon and the position on the external front has continued to be difficult in spite of buoyancy in exports and a slowdown in the growth of imports.

The survey says that while the agricultural production may show only a marginal improvement, the increase in industrial production is unlikely to exceed 6 per cent. As such, GDP (gross domestic product) growth may be around 4.5 per cent, much below the level of 10.4 per cent recorded in the previous year and even lower than the average growth rate of around 5.9 per cent during the first four years of the seventh plan.

The survey also points to a stagnation in the savings rate.

Agricultural production this year is expected to record a marginal increase over last year's bumper crop, while the production of foodgrains, cotton and sugarcane is likely to exceed last year's level, the output of oilseeds, jute and tea is likely to register some decline.

The survey says there has been a slowdown of industrial growth during 1989-90, with the index of industrial production recording a growth of only 5.2 per cent during the first eight months as compared with 9.4 per cent during the corresponding period last year.

This is essentially attributable to the poor performance of the manufacturing sector, mining and quarrying and electricity has performed significantly better during the period.

The performance of key infrastructure sectors in the first three quarters presents a mixed picture. Electricity generation, crude petroleum and petroleum products, coal and lignite production, shipping and communications sectors recorded substantial improvement in the revenue earning traffic of the railways but there has been some deceleration in the production of saleable steel, cement and phosphatic fertilisers.

The deceleration has been marked in a few key industries like sugar, steel, cement, fertilisers, cotton, commercial vehicles and consumer electronics.

According to the survey, the price situation has remained under pressure from the beginning of the year, despite a satisfactory monsoon and a bumper crop for the second year in succession.

The wholesale price index rose by seven per cent up to February this year, as compared to five per cent in the corresponding period of the last financial year, the annual rate of inflation works out to 7.7 per cent compared with 5.3 per cent last year, however, in terms of consumer price index, the increase in prices works out to 5.5 per cent up to January, lower than the 7.8 per cent recorded in the corresponding period last year.

The survey said fiscal imbalances are a major source of the current macro economic problems. The secular pressure on government expenditure have sharpened in recent years and the pattern of financing has been substantially different from what was anticipated in the medium term perspectives outlined in the seventh plan and the long term fiscal policy.

The union budget for 1989-90 had sought to correct the growing imbalances between revenues and expenditures. However, the actual outcome is likely to be worse than the budget estimates. The budget deficit was programmed at Rs 7,337 crores amounting to 1.7 per cent of GDP. However, the increase in net RBI credit to central government has been running well above this level for greater part of the year.

The large deficits have been met by borrowing and the debt of the central government has necessarily increased. Interest payments now account for a substantial part of the budget. The net interest burden in the central budget has gone up from 3.6 per cent of total expenditure in 1980-81 to 10.1 per cent in 1989-90.

According to the survey there has been steady decline in the proportion of expenditure on capital formation from over 40 per cent in mid 80s to 34.7 per cent in 1989-90. On the other hand, transfer payments from the central government to the states and other sectors of the economy have increased sharply from 31 per cent to 40 per cent in the same period. The share of consumption expenditure has fluctuated within the range of 21-23 per cent. Defence expenditure accounts for about 70 per cent of government consumption expenditure.

The survey also points out that the growing imbalances in the fiscal system did not stem from any let up in government resource mobilisation; rather it was due to increase in government expenditure which in turn was financed by larger borrowings and the budget deficit.

India's balance of payments situation remained under considerable pressure during 1989-90. Provisional data available upto December 1989 indicate that exports have recorded an increase of 38.3 per cent while imports have registered a relatively slow growth of 20.7 per cent, in terms of rupees. Significantly, the trade deficit of Rs 5,518 crore in the first nine months declined by 16.4 per cent.

According to the survey, the strains on balance of payments have been particularly severe since 1988-89. Several adverse medium term factors have contributed to this situation. They include the declining self-sufficiency in production/consumption of crude oil and petroleum products from the peak attained in 1984-85, the steady erosion of surpluses in invisibles account in financing the trade deficit, the unfavourable climate in concessional assistance and a bunching of debt service payments on past

borrowings from diverse external sources, including the IMF.

The strain on BOP is reflected in the depletion of India's foreign exchange reserves which stood at Rs 5,531 crore at the end of January, 1990.

The government has been attaching high importance to an improvement in the BOP situation through acceleration of export growth, efficient import substitution, reduction of procedural bottlenecks to exports and improvements in infrastructural facilities for exports.

The survey points out that in view of the large overhang of liquidity and rapid growth of money supply during the present decade, the potential for intensification of inflationary pressure is real. In combating inflation the scope for manoeuvrability is limited on the supply side due to reduced stocks of food and foreign exchange reserves. The solution has to be sought principally on the demand side, with particular attention being devoted to correcting the underlying fiscal imbalance.

This requires a multipronged approach of encompassing tight budgeting and control over public expenditure, substantial broadening of the tax base and improvement in the yield of collections from existing taxes along with much better physical and financial performance of public sector enterprises.

The resolution of government fiscal problems will require arduous efforts and difficult decision on the expenditure front.

On the revenue side, the basis approach must be to increase the yield from taxes.

Apart from fiscal imbalances, the imbalances in external account have continued to be an area of concern during the 80s.

Despite the strong performance of exports in recent years the pressures on BOP are expected to continue over the duration of the 8th plan. The viability of the BOP in the medium term will be critically dependent on rapid and sustained growth in export volumes and values.

Policies necessary to assure such performance, according to the survey, must command the highest priority. At the same time it is necessary to tailor tax and trade policies in a manner which discourages import substitution, industrialisation and fosters economically efficient import substitution.

Necessary adjustments in the BOP must be achieved without sacrificing the basic objective of equitable and self-reliant economic development.

The survey recognises that broad-based agricultural development is fundamental to the central task of poverty alleviation in India's programme of planned economic development.

The eighth plan is expected to accord high priority to rapid expansion of productive employment, consistent with the fundamental challenge of poverty alleviation. Available evidence suggests that the acceleration of the growth in the 80s has not been matched by a corresponding acceleration in employment.

A labour intensive pattern of industrial and agricultural development which is desirable for both equity and efficiency reasons, will also require substantial expansion of infrastructure facilities in areas such as energy, transportation, irrigation and telecommunications. Because of scale and technological factors some of these investments will necessarily be capital intensive.

Gulf keen to lower tariff barriers

GCC-EEC urged to set up marketing authority

MUSCAT, Oman, March 17, (Agencies): Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin Alawi called on the European Economic Community and the Gulf Co-operation Council today to set up a joint body to direct petrochemicals manufacturing and marketing.

Alawi made the call when he inaugurated a meeting of EEC and GCC foreign ministers in Muscat, the first since the EEC Commission last December sanctioned a free trade pact with six-nation GCC.

Alawi stressed that greater effort was needed to overcome political and economic problems.

He is the current chairman of the GCC, which groups Oman with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

"We consider the EEC states most important trade partners for the GCC... and for this week mutually beneficial co-operation," he said.



Douglas Hurd

He said that the growing co-operation between the two communities has led to "a feeling of optimism and urges us to more contacts and dialogue."

The GCC supplies roughly 40 per cent of Western Europe's energy needs and has an estimated trade with the EEC countries of some \$20 billion a year.

The foreign ministers of Ireland, current chairman of the EEC, France, Britain, the Netherlands, Greece and Denmark.

West Germany's minister of state for foreign affairs, and representatives from the rest of the 12-member EEC were attending the Muscat conference.

Petrochemicals has been a thorny issue in co-operation between the two groups.

The pro-Western Gulf countries follow their attempts to break away from dependence on oil exports by moving into oil related industries have run up against EEC tariffs.

Their concern about EEC protectionism has heightened with the approach of a united Europe in 1992.

Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins, who is leading the EEC side, said the community attached importance to the dialogue with oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

"We share the desire of the Arab Gulf Co-operation states to achieve security, peace and progress in this vital region of the world," Collins said.

The Irish foreign minister assured GCC foreign ministers that the EEC, while supporting rapid changes in Eastern Europe, would not allow that support to be at the expense of "our allies in the world."

Taking part in the Muscat meeting were the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman. The foreign ministers of Britain, France and the Irish republic represented the 12 EEC states.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was also expected to raise at the meeting the issue of Iraq's execution on Thursday of London-based journalist, Iraq is not a member of the GCC, but maintains close ties with the grouping.

Arab diplomatic sources said the GCC was also keen to lower tariff barriers for its petrochemical products in European markets. The EEC currently enjoys a trade surplus with the GCC.

China lowers interest rates

Plan to boost lending

BEIJING, March 17, (UPI): China, in the strongest signal yet it is easing a government austerity programme, has decided to trim interest rates and boost lending in the first half of the year to stimulate sagging industrial growth, the official press reported yesterday.

The actions were announced by the People's Bank of China, the central bank, just a few days before next week's annual session of the nominal parliament, the National People's Congress, at which the economy will be a major topic of discussion.

"A reduction in interest rates was vital at this time if the slide in industrial growth which has marked the beginning of the year was to be brought under control," said the official newspaper China Daily.

The government imposed a tight austerity programme, including a sharp restriction on credit, in late 1988 to rein in record inflation and ease breakneck growth in the economy, results of a decade of free-market economic reforms.

Inflation has fallen from a peak of 30 per cent to 6 per cent now, but the credit squeeze has resulted in a sharp industrial slowdown. Many factories have been idled and unemployment has risen to an official rate of 4 per cent, although it is actually higher.

The central bank announcement said interest rates on commercial loans would be cut by 1.26 percentage points from March 21. The average rate now on a 12-month loan is 11.34 per cent.

Norton, the world's largest manufacturer of abrasives, also produces ceramics, plastics and chemical process products.

The company had earnings of \$85.8 million on sales of \$1.53 billion in 1989. It employs 16,600 people and operates 120 plants in the United States and 27 in other countries.

BTR, formerly known as British Tire and Rubber, has diverse activities, including electronics, sports products and transportation. It had an after-tax profit of \$783 million (\$1.3 billion) on sales of \$7.03 billion (\$11.3 billion) last year.

Norton stock soared on the news of the bid, rising \$15.625 to \$73.875 by mid-day on the New York Stock Exchange.

Norton targetted by UK firm in takeover bid

BOSTON, Massachusetts, March 17, (AP): Norton Co., the Worcester-based manufacturer of abrasives, has been targeted by British industrial giant BTR Plc in an unsolicited \$1.64 billion takeover bid, officials said yesterday.

BTR officials said they were offering \$75 a share for Norton through US subsidiary, ER Holdings Inc.

Norton spokesman Francis J. Doherty Jr said Norton's board of directors was reviewing the offer and would inform shareholders of their position on the bid by March 29.

BTR's finance director, Chris Bull, said the company would finance the bid with corporate reserves and bank borrowing. He said he did not know how much debt would be incurred, but added that BTR could cope with any repayments despite Britain's 15 per cent interest rates.

The report says an economic austerity programme begun in late 1988 will continue, but tacitly acknowledges that along with achieving the goals of controlling breakneck growth and record inflation, the measures have also pushed China to the brink of recession.

The government has already begun to ease tight credit and inject funds into some sectors to reverse an industrial slowdown that has closed factories, hiked unemployment and led to fears of unrest.

More money will be pumped into key sectors such as agriculture, but the report also places emphasis on centralisation and large, historically inefficient state-owned industries, a retreat from the market-oriented reforms launched in the late 1970s.

Defence spending will see its first substantial increase after falling in real terms for each of the past four years. Analysts say the hike represents both a reward to the military for its role in last year's crackdown, and in a bid to quiet dissent in the ranks.

Sources said the military budget will rise 15.2 per cent over last year to nearly 29 billion yuan (\$6 billion). Despite this, the spending will only keep pace with or marginally exceed inflation.

Chinese govt to present austerity economic programme

Politically, Li's report details the revival of mass-line mobilisation staked out by Communist Party leaders at a meeting earlier this month. It will emphasise tight control and "grass roots" contact, to keep officials in touch with the public.

The party is already engaged in perhaps its biggest mass campaign since the turbulent 1966-1976 cultural revolution, having revived the legend of Lei Feng, a dedicated soldier made into a hero of the 1960s by Mao Tse-Tung. The legend has since been discredited.

But officials have turned out millions of people nation-wide to sweep streets, give haircuts and perform other "volunteer services in the Lei Feng" spirit and attend mandatory study sessions on his life. Chinese have reacted with apathy and disdain.

"We have seen all this before, during the cultural revolution, and they told us that was a bad period," said a Chinese intellectual.



Instant camera

Office worker Aya Takada shows off a picture of herself taken and being printed out from a new digital camera at her Tokyo office on March 14. The handy instant camera, "Da Vinci," said to be the world's first electronic still camera equipped with a graphic printer, will be sold in Tokyo around mid-April for 49,800 yen (about \$330). (Reuters wirephoto)

Shares end week with rally

LONDON, March 17, (UPI): Shares on London's international stock exchange ended the week with strong gains Friday, helped by buoyant company earnings reports and a stronger pound.

Volumes were low, however, as market participants remain cautious ahead of Tuesday's budget speech.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index closed at 2263.9, up 29.0 on the day and 29.6 higher on the week. The Financial Times 30 index ended the week at 1789.4, up 23.7 on the day and up 25.6 on the week.

Shares shrugged off recent election polls showing the government trailing by up to 21 points and were boosted by strong 1989 earnings reports from companies such as Rolls-Royce, BTR, Glaxo and British Aerospace.

Share prices were under pressure at the start of the week on fears of rising interest rates to support the pound. Higher than expected UK retail sales figures Monday added to interest rate worries and initial losses were exacerbated by ex-dividend mark down in large companies — ICI, GKN, Fisons, Barclays and Cadbury-Schweppes.

Grand Metropolitan unveiled its plans Tuesday to sell its breweries division to Elder DXL of Australia, for \$366 million (\$589 million) and reorganise its retailing businesses.

There was a muted initial response to the complicated deal but favourable press and analysts' comments helped lift Grand Met to 562p Friday, up 11p on the week.

Rolls-Royce 1989 earnings were 29 per cent higher at £233 million (\$375 million). It closed Friday up 11p on the week at 186p.

BOC ended up 24p on the week at 534p after it announced plans to float its health-care division. Imperial Chemical Industries regained earlier losses to finish 15-64 higher Friday at 1117-64p.

Pilkington announced Tuesday that US authorities cleared Nippon Sheet Glass to take 20 per cent in Libby-Owens-Ford, Pilkington's US subsidiary. Pilkington was up 8p on the week at 215p Friday.

British Aerospace up 15p to 501 after reporting 1989 pre-tax profit Wednesday up 28 per cent to £333 million (\$536 million).

Glaxo also reported strong half-yearly earnings Thursday, up 27 per cent to £585 million (\$942 million). It also was helped by brokers' recommendations to buy Glaxo and said Smithline Rescham, which reported 1989 earnings were up only 3 per cent.

Glaxo was up 36p Friday to 787p, while Smithline Rescham was down 3p at 48p.

Riyal deposit rates steady

NICOSIA, March 17, (Reuters): Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates remained steady in a typically thin market, mirroring dollar interest rates which were basically unchanged after new US economic data on Friday.

Dealers reported some business in the short-dates as operators covered day-to-day positions. Banks in the Gulf are normally shut on Friday, the Muslim weekend.

Bombyk Stock Exchange prices (Rs)

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)							
March 17, 90							
	Pr. Close	Open	Close				
ACC	352	353	357	Ind Sat	52	50	51.50
Alcon Chem	—	—	—	Kan Engg	132.75	133	131.75
Aliv Nils	—	—	—	Kir Comm	74.50	74	75
Arti Fab	—	—	—	KSB Pumps	210.25	200	202.50
Ashtok Ley	71	68	70	L & T	58	59	59
Asian Paints	222.50	220	220.25	Lipton	86.50	87	86
Atlas Cop	37	38.50	37.50	Mack Russel	100	100	99
Auto Corp	52.50	51	53	Mad Cos	108	—	—
Nat Index	373.54	—	376.60	Mahindra	75	76.25	76.25
Bajaj Auto	370	370	370	Mico	8.15	8.25	8.17
Bar Rayon	681.25	685	700	Milkfood	17.15	17	17
Below Plast	—	—	—	Modi	46.25	46.25	49
Bom Dye	175.50	176.50	182.50	MRP Ltd	217.50	215	215
BS Ind	97	97	97	Muk Heri	125	134	135.50
Burr Well	80	75	80	Nocil	1200	1200	1200
Candabare	—	—	—	Nat Org	—	—	—
Can Enka	3100	3100	3100	Nippon	43	42	42.50
Can Enka	2765	2780	2840	Orissa	15	15	15.50
Colgate	180	180	180	Oswal Agro	44.50	43.50	44.50
Cromi Gr	925	920	915	Pelco	—	—	—
DCM	15	14	15	Pfizer	74.50	74.50	74
Deep Fert	33	32.50	33	Pond's	196	196	197.50
Dunlop	56	52	54	Pran Auto	56	56	56
ET Hotels	61	60	61	Ranbaxy	93.75	91.25	93.75
Econic	83.50	82.50	83	Ray Wool	78	77	78
BSE Index	678.91	—	686.29	Reliance	185	180	185
Esakrey	120	120	121.25	Sesa Goa	52	52	53
Esarag	32.25	32	33.50	Shree Shell	78	79	79.50
Food Spl	114	113.75	115	Shree Cement	—	—	—
Forbes	47.50	47	48	Shri Fibm	56	54	56
Gar Poly	34.50	33	36.50	Siemens	102	100	101
Gland	94	93.50	94	Sin	1270	1280	1290
GNFC	43.25	42.75	44	Spic	57	57.25	58.50
Gensim	109.50	109.50	110	St Mills	68	68	67
GE Steel	45.50	45.65	45	Tata Oil	121.50	120	122.50
GSCF	180	181.25	183	Tata Pow	425	430	427.50
Gul Aikt	81.50	80	81	Telco	112.75	113	114
Gul Kewary	16	15	16	Thengro Agro	109.50	110	111.25
Hera Honda	16	15	16	Vam Org	137.50	138.50	141
Hind Ciba	1020	1025	1050	Vareli	68	66.50	66
Hind Lever	108	108	107.50	Winaco	18.25	19	18.75
Hind Cera	104	105	150	Zenith	53	53	54
Hind Motor	20.75	21.25	21.25	Zuni Agro	61	60	61
Hindnoko	208.75	208.75	211.25				
Hindol	1320	1300	1340				
Ingersoll	22.50	22	22.50				
ITC	51	50	51				
Ind Lag	48	48.25	48.50				
Ind Sat	50	50	50				

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Susanti fights back for victory

LONDON, March 17, (UPI): Susi Susanti reached the women's final of the All England Badminton Championships yesterday, but only after she had lost the first set against Zhou Lei of China 2-11.

The elfin Indonesian looked nervous and tentative as the Chinese player varied the pace of play to go ahead 2-6. Even after changing rackets, Susanti continued to hand out errors as she lost the first set in 10 minutes.

She changed rackets again during a long exchange of service at 1-1 in the second. It seemed to do the trick as she sped to 6-2 and took the set on Zhou missing a smash down the forehand line.

The decider was much closer and involved a series of baseline battles before Susanti pulled away to 9-5.

Zhou came back to reach 7-9 after a 37-shot rally and saved match point at 9-10 after a 32-shot exchange before Susanti punched the winner down the middle on her next service.

It was the 19-year-old Indonesian's first serious test of the championships after a bye, a walkover and two straight forward straight-set wins.

She was to meet another Chinese, Huang Hua, the No. 2 seed, in the final today.

Huang, victorious in the Swedish Open earlier this month, won a bloodless victory 11-0, 11-0 against Korea's Lee Heung Soon who had to come through the qualifying tournament to reach the championship.

The men's singles final today was to be between the joint fifth seeds Zhao Jianhua of China and Indonesia's Joko Suprianto.

Both won their semifinals in straight sets, Zhao beating Malaysian Rashid Sidek 18-16, 15-6, while Suprianto won an all Indonesian clash with Eddy Kusnawan 15-4, 15-10.

Zhao, who once the all England title in his first appearance in 1985, had by far the rougher passage against the confident Sidek, who beat top seed Morten Frost Thursday to reach the last four.

In a full bodied first set, the Chinese left-hander used his full range of strokes to reach 13-9 before Sidek forced play into extra points and reached 3-0 on his first service.

But Zhao went to 3-4 on his next service and lost match point on a service fault before smashing down the centre for 18-16.

Zhao's ferocious smash was a key factor. Sidek tried to keep play away from the shot but in the second set found himself increasingly facing overhead attacks or being deceived into misdirecting deftly played disguised drop shots.

The smash which earned Zhao the nickname Zhao Kapow helped the Chinese to 9-2 on his third service and after a brief Sidek rally won the match 15-6, after Zhao had set the chance up with a shallow drop shot.

Aussies 53 for two; New Zealand out for 202 Kiwis hold on to advantage

WELLINGTON, March 17, (Reuters): New Zealand held onto their advantage over Australia on the third day of a one-off Test in Wellington today, despite pedestrian batting that broke a world Test record for slow scoring set nearly 60 years ago.

At stumps Australia were 53 for two wickets in their second innings, still 39 runs behind the New Zealand first innings total of 202.

New Zealand lost some initiative by batting extremely slowly after beginning the day at 93 for three. Batting was difficult on the slow-paced Basin Reserve wicket but the New Zealanders seemed reluctant to take the attack to Australia in a bid for a large first innings lead.

They were also hampered by accurate bowling by an Australian team keen to fight its way back after a disappointing first innings score of 110.

New Zealand's 202 runs came of 121 overs, during which night-watchman Martin Snedden's slow scoring earned him a Test cricket record when he failed to add to his score for 94 minutes before lunch despite facing 54 balls.

The previous Test record of 90 minutes between runs was shared by South Africa's Bruce Mitchell against Australia in 1931-32 and England's Chris Tavare against



Alderman: took four wickets for 48.

Australia in 1982-83.

Snedden was finally out for 23 soon after lunch, having faced 122 balls in 179 minutes and hit four fours.

The other milestone of the day went to Richard Hadlee, playing his last Test in New Zealand. He scored his 3,000th Test run, joining an elite group of Ian

Botham (England), Kapil Dev (India) and Imran Khan (Pakistan) who have scored 3,000 runs and taken 300 wickets in Tests. Hadlee last month became the first player to take 400 Test wickets.

Terry Alderman was the most successful Australian bowler, taking four for 46, while Carl Rackemann was the most unlucky, finishing with none for 42 despite teasing the New Zealanders into false strokes.

The low-playing wicket did not give much help to the seam bowlers. Off-spinner Peter Taylor generated only modest runs but took three wickets for 44 runs from 33 economical overs.

The Australian batsmen looked keen to make amends for their poor first innings. Opener Geoff Marsh made a swift start after tea and took advantage of wayward opening overs by Richard Hadlee and Danny Morrison.

But Hadlee struck when the score was 27, trapping Mark Taylor in front for five, after he scored four in the first innings. Australia's scoring rate then slowed appreciably.

New Zealand captain John Wright soon decided to let the fiery Morrison bowl with a strong wind at his back and he brought off-spinner John Bracewell on at the other end.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 110 (P. Taylor 29, R. Hadlee five for 39, D. Morrison three for 22.)

NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 93 for three): J. Wright c Healy b Alderman 36, T. Franklin c Marsh b P. Taylor 28.

A. Jones c and b Border 18, M. Snedden b Alderman 23, M. Greatbatch c Healy b P. Taylor 16.

K. Rutherford c Healy b P. Taylor 12, J. Crowe lbw b Alderman 9.

R. Hadlee lbw b Campbell 18, I. Smith c M. Taylor b Campbell 1.

J. Bracewell not out 19, D. Morrison c M. Taylor b Alderman 12.

Extras (lb-5, nb-3, b-2) 10, Total (121 overs) 202.

Fall of wickets: 1-48 (2-89) 3-89 4-111 5-123 6-150 7-151 8-152 9-171.

Bowling: Alderman 29-9-46-4 (nb-1), Rackemann 32-17-42-0, P. Taylor 38-19-44-3, Campbell 21-3-51-2 (nb-2), Border 6-3-12-1.

AUSTRALIA second innings 33 (G. Marsh not out 33, M. Taylor lbw b Hadlee 5, D. Boon c Smith b Bracewell 8, P. Taylor not out 1, Extras (lb-5, nb-1) 5, Total (from 26 overs) 53.

Fall of wickets: 1-27 2-50. To bat: A. Border, D. Jones, S. Waugh, I. Healy, G. Campbell, C. Rackemann, T. Alderman.

Bowling: Hadlee 8-2-25-1, Morrison 7-3-16-0 (nb-1), Snedden 6-3-7-0, Bracewell 5-5-0-1.



Irwin takes lead in Players tournament

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 17, (Reuters): Hale Irwin drew on his considerable experience yesterday to overcome gusty winds and shoot a four-under-par 68 that put him into the lead after 36 holes of the \$1.5 million Players Championship.

The 44-year-old Irwin had five birdies and only one bogey despite the difficult conditions at the TPC at Sawgrass course to post a six-under-par 138 total after two rounds.

Jodie Mudd, who shared the overnight lead with British Open champion Mark Calcavecchia, and Rocco Mediate were tied for second place at five-under-par 139.

Mudd shot an even-par 72, while Mediate, who lives less than a mile (1.6 km) from the clubhouse here, fired a five-under-par 67 for his share of second place.

Ken Green and Clark Burroughs, who happens to be Mediate's next-door neighbour, were tied at four-under-par 140.

Irwin, a two-time US Open champion, said: "It's been a good while since I've been a factor in a tournament, so I have had to draw on my experiences."

I've been playing better recently."

A 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th gave Irwin the lead.

"The courses that yield birdies grudgingly are the courses I like to play, I like the challenge," said Irwin.

Tom Watson, after posting an opening round 69, was having a good, solid second round until he came to the treacherous 18th.

Watson, who stood at five under-par, pushed his tee shot well away from the water on the left side. On his second shot, he hit a palm tree and the ball bounced straight left and into the lake.

He finished with a double-bogey six for a 141 total.

Defending champion Tom Kite shot a 70 to stand at two-under-par 142, a total he shared with Calcavecchia who struggled in with a 75.

Curtis Strange, winner of the last two US Opens, shot 71 for 143.

Two big names were among those to miss the cut: Sandy Eyle of Britain double-bogeyed the last hole for a 76 that put him at six-over-par 150. Jack Nicklaus recorded a 78 for 153.

Cash, Pernfors lose in first round

KEY BISCAINE, Fla., March 17, (Reuters): Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash made a disappointing return to major tournament action yesterday as he lost to Bruno Oresar of Yugoslavia 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the \$2.55 million International Players Championship tennis tournament.

The Australian had played just one minor tournament in singles since snapping his achilles tendon last April.

"I was thoroughly embarrassed," Cash said.

"I took off my headband (at 0-5 in the second set) because I didn't want people to think I was the same guy who won Wimbledon. I guess I've got to play more matches or something. I'm not really sure."

Another established player to fall was Mikael Pernfors, who was eliminated by Jim Pugh. The American served his way past the groundstroking Swede 6-7, 6-3, 6-4 after nearly squandering a 4-0 third-set lead in one of the day's most dramatic first-round matches.

On the women's side, 13-year-old Jennifer Capriati continued her winning ways with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over compatriot Lauanne Spadea.

Capriati next faces sixth-seeded Czechoslovak Helena

Sukova, one of the players the American teenager beat last week on her way to the finals of her first pro tournament.

All seeded players received first-round byes, including the defending champions and top seeds Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina.

Lendl will face Jors Wozniemann of West Germany, and second-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany takes on qualifier Fabrice Santoro of France in second-round matches.

Sabatini plays Sandra Wasserman of Belgium, who routed Canadian Carling Bassett-Seguso 6-0, 6-2, to advance.

The only bright moments for Cash came when he broke Oresar at 0-5 in the second set with two powerful overheads and then saves double match point in the next game to pull to 2-5.

Cash then saved three more match points in the eighth game, two with blazing backhand winners, before hitting a routine forehand long to complete Oresar's victory.

Pugh, who dropped the first set in a tiebreaker, took control of his match with Pernfors by winning the second set and racing to a 4-0 lead in third set.

Pernfors then began blasting



Capriati returns a shot to Spadea. (Reuters wirephoto)

passing shots past Pugh and rallied to 4-4 before Pugh broke the Swede with a drop volley and routinely served out the final set in the 10th game.

Capriati was slightly off form against Spadea but was still able to win the important points. As

for her re-match with Sukova, the hard-hitting American said she felt confident.

"I'll have confidence knowing that I beat her before, but I think she'll play better because she knows my game. I'll have to play better for sure," Capriati said.

Chiyonofuji pushes record to 1,000 wins

TOKYO, March 17, (AP): Already a national hero, Sumo's muscular grand champion Chiyonofuji can now also boast of being the ancient sport's first wrestler to win 1,000 professional bouts.

Chiyonofuji reached the all-time high by defeating burlly Hananokuni today, the seventh day of the Spring Grand Sumo tournament being held in Osaka, western Japan. Chiyonofuji has 422 career losses.

"I'm happy," he said in a televised interview after the match. "I took each fight one at a time."

The 34-year-old, 183-centimetre-tall (6-foot-tall) grand champion became Sumo's most winning wrestler last September, when he surpassed the 964 career wins of Oshio, who retired in January 1988 at age 40 after reaching Sumo's fourth-highest rank.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu awarded Chiyonofuji the People's Honour Award after he broke Oshio's mark.

Al Ghanim outplay Nissan in elimination round

AL GHANIM defeated Nissan 96-88 as the Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) elimination round ended at the Keifan High School Gym on Friday.

In the other matches, EEI beat Trico 105-102, KDD blasted KAI 124-87, KHC-Bayan outclassed Overland 89-74, EEI overwhelmed KRP 108-88 and KDD beat Overland 68-63.

Al Ghanim Freight & Travel closed out its elimination round by subduing the hard fighting Nissan Al Babbain. It was a close contest all throughout with neither team having a clear advantage over the other. Halftime score was 47-46 for Al Ghanim. Mike Velasco was the key man for Al Ghanim as he scored a game high 29 points including a converted steal that ignited a 8-0 run that broke the aspirations of the Nissan 5 to enter the championship round.

Other scorers for Al Ghanim were Nelson Garcia 22, Ungco 21 and Galicia 6. Nissan Al Babbain in its losing effort was paced by Perez 21, De Los Reyes 15, Detera 12, Abajero 11, Espinosa 10, Garcia 9 and Batac 7 points.

EEI 105-Trico 102

EEI moved on to the Championship Round with a 105-102 win over the Trico 5. The crowd was treated to another excellent match as both teams displayed an up-tempo game (breaking the century mark) with EEI outsteading its opponent in the clutch. Halftime score stood at 54-50 in favour of EEI, as Celso Tualdes converted on two (2) successive drives that he stole himself which somehow made up for his seven (7) game-high travelling violations.

The second-half prove no



The Red team for next Friday's Pizza All-Star game.

different than the first 20 minutes of the game with both teams playing serious basketball to the delight of the crowd. With time down to 9 seconds in the final half of play and the score at 105-102, Trico had the chance to equalise and send the game into overtime. After the inbound, Trico's Reyes was left wide open by the EEI defence. However, he didn't shoot the ball and instead passed to Calaycay who was tightly shadowed, thus forcing his shot and consequently missing. It was a tactical loss for Trico, as they weren't able to get the ball to streak-shooter Steve Atienza who fielded back in the final 9 seconds of the game.

EEI was paced by Zalavarria 21, Tualdes 20, Garcia 18, Dinggon 16 and Lugo 13. Trico losing in the final seconds of the ballgame was led by Reyes 30,

Vargas 19, Calaycay 16, Castor 12, Babierra 11 and Atienza 7.

KDD 124-KAI 87

KDD having only 7 players on its bench blasted KAI 124-87, to finally barge into the win column. KAI proved no match for the KDD 5 as they played their hearts out minus a legitimate centre (Marin). Halftime score stood at 68-35 KDD. In the second-half, KDD scored 56 points while KAI managed to come up with 52, on the heroics of Marin, Medrano, and Butch Evangelista's 3 pointers. This however was not enough to erase the halftime lead of their foe and when the final buzzer sounded, it was a 37 points win by KDD over KAI.

KDD's 7 players were all able to score and they were led by Rue 26, Liganay 25, Pizarro 20, Dominguez 16,

Ramirez 15, Gutierrez 13 and Francisco 9. KAI on the other hand was led by Marin 19, Medrano 16, Morales 12, Velayo 10, Evangelista 9 and Kai 8.

KHC-Bayan 89-Overland 74 KHC-Bayan joined early qualifier KPBC & EEI in the Championship round with an 89-74 thrashing of Overland. In the early minutes of the first half, Overland looked impressive as they led 10-4 to the delight of the OTC fans. The KHC followers, however, had the last say as their team began to find their marks enroute to a 15 points decision over its opponent. KHC was again led by Mr. X-Ortega who tossed in a game high 31 points. He was ably supported by Abubo 14, Ong 10, Camacho 8 and Soliman 7. Overland was paced by "Billy-Ray/Hulk Hogan"



Liganay (left): Mabuhay Best Player

Navarro 26, Martinez 13, Nicodemus, Pineda and Villa 8 each.

EEI 108-KRP 88

In the fifth game of the day, EEI showed that it pays to win as they coasted along to a 108-88 victory over KRP. Halftime score stood at 54-40 for EEI. In the second-half, EEI doubled its output while KRP was able to toss in 50 points, courtesy of Speedy Bolito, Matudio and Osorio, but this wasn't enough. In their 4th win in as many outings, EEI was led by Juan 26, Alojado 17, Molina 12, Lugo and Dela Cruz 10 apiece, Peptio, Tualdes and Garcia 8 each.

KRP was again led by Speedy Bolito 27, Osorio 19, Matudio 16, Redodice 9 and Jumadiao 7. EEI's victory over KRP allowed Trico to move on to the Championship Round.

Actually Trico (2-2) winning over Al Ghanim and KRP and losing to EEI and Nissan (Default) is tied with Al Ghanim (2-2) winning over KRP and Nissan and losing to Trico & EEI. However, applying the rules as stated in the Fiba Rule Book, Trico was the qualifier by virtue of its win over Al Ghanim.

KDD 68-Overland 63

In the last game of the Elimination Round, KDD outsteaded Overland 68-63 to close out its schedule with a 2 win-2 loss card. KDD was led by Liganay 17, Ramirez 13, Francisco 12, Rue 10, Pizarro and Dominguez 8 apiece. Overland in its 3rd loss in 4 games was paced by Navarro 18, Martinez 10, Moya Nicodemus 8 apiece. "Mabuhay Best Players of the

Game" 1. Mike Velasco (Al Ghanim) vs. Nissan 2. Zalavarria (EEI) vs. Trico 3. Liganay (KDD) vs. KAI 4. Mr X-Ortega (KHC-Bayan) vs. Overland 5. Mr Juan (EEI) vs. KRP 6. Liganay (KDD) vs. Overland

Final standings

Group-1

GP	W	L
* EEI	4	0
* Trico	4	2
- Al Ghanim	4	2
- Nissan	4	1
/KRP	4	1

Group-2

GP	W	L
* KPBC	4	0
* KHC-Bayan	4	3
- KDD	4	2
- Overland	4	1
/KAI	4	0

* Qualifies for the Championship round.

- Qualifies for the consolation round.

/Best of three for 9th place

Championship Round

The "KPBL" shifts into high gear next Friday, the March 23 with the start of the Championship Round. The schedules are as follows:

9.00 am KRP vs KAI (best of three for ninth place)

10.30 am Nissan vs KDD (consolation round)

12.00 pm Al Ghanim vs. Overland (consolation round)

1.30 pm Trico vs. KPBC (Championship round)

3.00 pm EEI vs. KHC-Bayan (Championship round)

5.00 pm Pizza Italia All Star game Red vs. Green

KPBL meeting

A "KPBL" meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 19 at 8:00 pm at the Mabuhay Restaurant located at Fahed Al Salem St., Kuwait. All members to the KPBL Board of Governors are requested to be present at the said meeting.



Mr. Ortega (above) and Juan receive their awards.



Boycott Johnson: Sir Gold

LONDON, March 17, (Reuters): Britain's senior anti-doping campaigner, Sir Arthur Gold, has called on the world's top sprinters not to run against Ben Johnson when the disgraced Canadian returns to international competition in September.

Gold, chairman of the British Olympic Association, told a British Sports Council seminar on drug abuse yesterday that Johnson stood to earn huge sums of money if other athletics stars ran against him.

"I would ask Carl Lewis and Linford Christie not to compete in 'spectaculars' so that Johnson does not enjoy the wages of sin," the London Times quoted Gold as telling the meeting.

Johnson is serving a two-year suspension for using banned anabolic steroids. He was stripped of his gold medal after winning the 100 metres at the 1988 Seoul Olympics when he tested positive for using the muscle-building drugs.

European athletics meeting organisers are reported to be planning to match Johnson with Lewis and Christie, who finished behind the Canadian at the 1988 Games.

Gold repeated his demand for a life ban on any athlete found to have drugs during an Olympic Games and said he was opposed to Johnson ever being reinstated.

"He should never be allowed to run again in the Games," Gold was quoted as saying.

Secret stages of rally cut

LONDON, March 17, (Reuters): The traditional secret stages of the British rally have been scrapped following pressure from World Championship competitors, race organisers said yesterday.

Rally manager Malcolm Neill said drivers would have pace notes guiding them round the 370 miles (590 kilometres) of special stages.

Leading cars are also likely to be allowed to reconnoitre the testing forest stages for themselves before the Nov 25 start.

Neill said the changes were in the interests of rally safety and to meet desires of major participants.

The rally will be shortened by 350 miles (560 km), also to suit the top teams, but the cut will be made from the road links between the special stages, which will remain the same overall length.

Sulzenbacher wins

RAUFOSS, Norway, March 17, (AP): Klaus Sulzenbacher of Austria clinches the season's World Cup trophy in the Nordic combination of ski jumping and 15-kilometre cross-country ski racing last night.

The national NTB news agency reported that he locked it up after Soviet Allar, the only competitor with a reach shot at the title, fell ill and withdrew from the jumping competition in Loeenbergbakken.

Sulzenbacher already had assembled 156 points in previous World Cup events before the 15-kilometre final event, which was scheduled for today.

Levandi finished at 135 points as World Cup runner-up. Knut Tore Apleand and Fred Boerre Lundberg, both of Norway, had 87 and 84 points.



Both the teams which took part in Friday's All-Star game. (Photos by Khalil Jabr)

A Little Leaguer.

Kuwait Little League season ends

Fox and Nagashima take Most Valuable Player awards

THE Kuwait Little League 1989-90 season came to a close on Friday after nearly six months of very exciting games. The last event of the Little League calendar was the All-Star game between the Blue team and the Red team.

A very large crowd of over one thousand people filled the Kuwait Highway Patrol Ground to see the children in action for the last time this season. The atmosphere was more of people out for a leisure time rather than to attend a competition. Everyone enjoyed a lovely Kuwait spring day together with the food and drinks provided by the Sultan Centre and Pepsi Co.

The organizers of the last day's festivities did a remarkable job in putting together the whole event. The Universal American School band was on hand to play the music while the American School cheerleaders were on the ground to boost the morale of both the teams.

Medals to the most dedicated players of all the teams were presented by the American Ambassador to Kuwait Nathaniel Howell and the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Tsuyoshi Kurokawa.

The players of both the teams, however, were in no mood to let their rivals clinch the game. While the proud parents looked on from the sidelines, the children treated them to a wonderful game of Little League baseball. The game cannot be classed alongside the one produced by the great American baseball teams but the entertainment provided by these children to their parents bears no comparison.



Some of the Little Leaguers with their awards.



An action shot of the match.

The game itself went to the sixth innings after which the Blue team emerged victorious 13-6. The score is no reflection of the game as the battle for supremacy was much closer. Cory Fox of Blue team took the Most Valuable Player award from his side while the same award for the Red team went to Masaaki Nagashima.

After the game, the organizers thanked all the sponsors for their support and also the

volunteers for doing a great job.

The two All-Star teams were based on the following players:

Blue team: Adam Bengali, Cory Fox, Hisham Navarro, Jihad Sakleh, Josh Bauer, Kareem Nakshebandi, Nathan Moneyham, Paul Colbourne, Rusty Stombaugh, Ryan Fox, Talal Navarro and Tarek Abdul Moushen.

Red team: Firas Afani, Haider Basravi, Hitham Al Rijab, James Riley, Keita Miyazaki, Mazin Sbaiti, Moid Tongkar, Sommer Al Nasralla, Takayuki Okusa, Timmy Azzouz, Waqar Hasib and Masaaki Nagashima.

The Kuwait Little League season had started in mid-October with 18 teams taking part in four different groups. There were six T-ball teams,

four Minor League teams, six Major League squads and two teams in the senior League.

A total of nearly 270 children made up these 18 teams. Of these 270 players, 67 are Kuwaitis. The instructors and coaches for all these teams are volunteers, who are sought at the start of each season. Some of these volunteers have been with the teams for a number of seasons.

The outgoing president of the Kuwait Little League, Suleiman Sakleh, has been associated with the game for nearly five years, of which he has been president of the League for nearly 2-1/2 years.

The organizers of the event expect the number of children to increase to nearly 350 next season as the interest among the children increases and the parents also realize the role these games play in building a competitive spirit among the children.

The Kuwait Little League has only two fields at the moment but the League officials hope to add a third one next season. The League officials also hope to have a permanent ground soon.

The League also plans to give the children some international experience next year. Plans are at hand to send the Little Leaguers to Dubai and Saudi Arabia and also invite other Gulf teams to Kuwait.

Last month, a new board was elected to carry on the excellent work done by this year's board. Jim Riley has been elected as president while Keichi Miyazaki is the 1st vice-president and Abdul Hadi Al Qallaf is the 2nd vice-president. Rafiq Bengali occupies the post of treasurer while Patty Fox is the secretary.



A Little Leaguer waits for the ball.



An award being presented to one of the Little Leaguers.



Children enjoy snacks while watching the game.



The Universal American School band.



One of the events on the last day.

Vendiola outlasts Dumlaio to secure Filcheck tournament lead

INGEMAR "Ingy" Vendiola, secured his lead in Group A of the First Rated Chess Tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Filcheck" during the fourth round matches held on Friday.

Erstwhile tournament favourite Niel Dumlaio failed to exploit on Ingy's dubious knight sacrifice on the 23rd move of a French defence. Niel finally conceded defeat after 35 moves when he found himself in extreme time difficulty with less than a minute to make 10 moves. Ingy now leads the Group with a perfect score after 4 rounds of the 7-round Swiss system tournament.

Also in Group A, Danny Calasian won over veteran Jess Betguen in just 23 moves of a Pirc defence when the latter playing white made a premature rook and knight sacrifice in the 18th and 20th move. Ali Maca-ayan outwitted Ver Farales in 62 moves of a Queen's gambit accepted while Edwin Borigas and Thony Monreal finally agreed to a draw after 45 moves of an Old Indian defence.

Other Group A winners are Rading Moje, Rene Mostrales, Sammy Aurellano, and Arnel

Matutino.

In Group B, Dads Pates defeated Stanley Sawit to score 3.5 points after 4 rounds and force the much awaited showdown with current leader Gil Opiana Jr who retained his solo lead with 4 points.

In other Group B matches, Fred Marasigan won over Bamra

Bucay in 39 moves of a Giuoco piano variation while Mel Espinosa defeated Silver Salvado in 43 moves of a Sicilian defence. Newcomer Dedi Herras playing white capitalised on Mauro Burlat's irregular opening to win in 33 moves.

The group's veteran players, Bernard de los Reyes and

Ahmad Hussein played an all-exciting 72 moves of a Queen's gambit declined with the former finally resigning when the latter's queening pawn proved to be unstoppable.

In another development, Filcheck Board of Directors will hold its induction rites on April

12, 1990, to coincide with the awarding ceremonies of the ongoing tournament. Dubbed as the "Black and White Nite" all members are to come in formal black and white attire for the ceremony. All members including non-playing, are requested to get in touch with the club's president Edward Racaza and treasurer Sammy

Aurellano for details at Tel. 2402405.

Fifth round schedule, Friday, March 23.

Group B (9.00 am)

W vs B W vs B

2 8 4 13

5 15 20 9

16 6 1 14

17 3 18 7

Group A (12.00 noon)

W vs B W vs B

7 11 16 2

3 8 19 13

15 18 12 14

1 9 17 4

Results after fourth round

Group B: Mauro Burlat, 1

point; 2. Dads Pates, 3.5; 3. Diony Bartolome, 2.5; 4. Mel Espinosa, 2; 5. Hussain Ahmad, 3; 6. Robert Vargas, 2.5; 7. Jun Emutan, 0.5; 8. Gil Opiana Jr, 4; 9. Bernard de los Reyes, 2; 10. Nilo Magtangob, withdrawn; 11. Jigs Acodisen, withdrawn; 12. Nonoy Caro, withdrawn; 13. Dedi Herras, 2; 14. Silver Salvado, 1; 15. Rolly Mercado, 2.5; 16. Stanley Sawit, 2.5; 17. Jun Alejandro, 2.5; 18. Bamra Bucay, 0; 19. Alex Espedilla, withdrawn; 20. Fred Marasigan, 2; 21. Vic Corpuz, withdrawn; 22. Robert Daiz, withdrawn.

Group A: 1. Thony Monreal, 2 points; 2. Sammy Aurellano, 2; 3. Niel Dumlaio, 3; 4. Jess Betguen, 1; 5. Romy Pagaduan, withdrawn; 6. Chito Barrios, withdrawn; 7. Rene Mostrales, 3; 8. Ali Maca-ayan, 3; 9. Arnel Martinez, 2; 10. Ramon Cortado, withdrawn; 11. Ingemar Vendiola, 4; 12. Rolly Boado, 1; 13. Rading Moje, 2; 14. Nanding Policarpio, 1.5; 15. Arnel Matutino, 2.5; 16. Danilo Calasian, 2; 17. Rey Mangoriong, 0.5; 18. Edwin Borigas, 2.5; 19. Ver Farales, 2; 20. Romy Yelazo, withdrawn; 21. Wabab Alamada, withdrawn; 22. Rey Cortez, withdrawn.



Pates (right) playing Opiana.



Filcheck Board of Directors.



Vendiola (left) in his third round match.

SPORTS

Algeria overcome Nigeria to clinch African Nations Cup

ALGIERS, March 17, (Reuters): Algeria clinched a long-sought soccer triumph yesterday by beating Nigeria 1-0 in the final of the African Nations Cup.

The two-week tournament was marked by Zambia's surprise third-place finish and the disappointment of Cameroon.

With 13 goals to their credit in five matches and only two against, Algeria achieved an almost faultless record.

"It was the best team throughout the

competition that won," said Claude Leroy, the French trainer of semi-finalist Senegal.

Algeria also had the very important advantage of playing at home.

Backed by tens of thousands of ecstatic fans, the Algerians began on a high note by thrashing Nigeria 5-1, even though their margin of victory slipped in later games.

They beat the Ivory Coast 3-0, Egypt 2-0 and Senegal 2-1 in the semifinals.

Algeria owed its first African Cup to professionals Rabah Madjer, Djamel Menad and Cherif Oudjani and two emerging younger players, Fodhil Megharra and Cherif El Ouzani.

In a vote before the final, Madjer was elected best player, but some experts protested that El Ouzani deserved it more, while Menad topped the scorers' chart with four goals.

After a poor start in the competition, the

Nigerians gained steam with 1-0 victories against the Ivory Coast and Egypt and a convincing 3-0 win over Zambia.

But Nigeria's "Super Eagles" seemed incapable of building a co-ordinated game, relying on the efficiency of star centre-forward Rashidi Yekini, the second best scorer with three goals.

Zambia was the surprise of the Cup. Despite the absence of their star Kalusha, they beat defending African champions

Cameroon 1-0 in their first match and Senegal for third place on Thursday.

Webby Chikabala was elected third best player.

Senegal left a mixed impression. Despite an excellent 2-0 defeat of Cameroon and a good performance against Algeria, it suffered from an unstable line-up.

With a dozen good professionals like Jules Bocande, Abdoulaye Diallo and Roger Mendy, Leroy was unable to build

an effective team since they were not always available.

Diallo even flew to join his French club Marseille for a match, returning the next day.

The same problem seemed to have afflicted the Ivory Coast and Cameroon, initially considered top contenders.

The Ivory Coast managed only a small win against Egypt. Star striker Youssouf Fofana joined the team only three hours

before a crucial match against Nigeria, which he performed abysmally, even though a team would have qualified them for the semifinals.

Cameroon seemed more concerned with the World Cup only three months away. Inadequately prepared, it lacked some of its best professionals.

Egypt, also with its sights on Italy, was B team after first deciding not to play at all out of fear of violence from Algerian fans.

KIH tennis

RESULTS of Kuwait International Hotel's 1990 Amateur Tennis Classic Tournament games yesterday.

Men's singles

A. George defeated Raafat Nasser 6-1; 6-2

Rabi Nasser defeated W. Abu Lughud w-o

Hill defeated F. Jaroudi 6-0; 6-1

A. Negri defeated D. Morrison 7-5; 6-4

S. Brennenstahl defeated A. Ahmad 6-4; 6-3

Vogt defeated G. Latala 5-7; 6-1; 6-3

N. Al-Kadi defeated F. Al Ibrahim w-o

P. Daniel defeated A. Desmond w-o

Open doubles

C. Myers & P. Stubbs defeated S. Dhanak & B.R. Dhanak 6-2; 6-3

M. Simon & K. Soenksen defeated N. Abdullah & M.H. Kadry 6-1; 6-0

M. Harnaan & J. Dufour defeated M. Lukic & B. Soenksen 6-3; 6-4

A. Nair & A. Tamim defeated A. Ahmad & A. Desmond 6-3; 6-2

F. Fadda & K. Fadda defeated F. Jaroudi & O. Al Matar 7-5; 2-6; 7-5

T. Milera & S. Ahe defeated B. Jaafar & R. Sadik w-o

SPORTS BRIEFS

Asian champions

SINGAPORE, March 17, (AP): China scored two points in the last few seconds to defeat South Korea 78-76 in a Division One match and emerge champions in the 13th biennial Asian Basketball Women's championship this evening.

Kuwait football

AL ARABI beat Yarmouk 3-1 as the Kuwait Football League games resumed yesterday after a break of two months. In the only other match played yesterday, Salimiya beat Al Nasr 1-0.

W. German soccer

BONN, March 17, (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results yesterday:

Bayer L	1	Hamburg	0
Borussia D	2	Karlsruhe	0
Nuremberg	2	Homburg	0
Fortuna D	0	Borussia M	1
Bayer U	4	VFB Stuttgart	1
Kaiserslautern	2	Bochum	0
Bayern M	1	Eintracht F	0
St Pauli	2	Waldhof M	0
Werder B	4	Cologne	0

Played on Friday

W. Indies captain

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, March 17, (Reuters): West Indies captain Viv Richards, suffering from a recurrence of haemorrhoids that threatens to keep him out of the third Test against England, may be able to play club cricket in his home island of Antigua this weekend.

Bugno triumphs

SAN REMO, Italy, March 17, (AP): Italy's Gianni Bugno today edged West German Rolf Golz by a few seconds following a gruelling 294-kilometre race to capture the Milano-San Remo road cycling classic — the opening event of the 1990 World Cup.

Finnish Open

ESPOO, Finland, March 17, (Reuters): Semifinal results in the Finnish Open squash championship today.

Jansher Khan (Pakistan) beat Mir Zaman Gul (Pakistan) 15-5 10-15 15-9 15-10; Sami Elopuro (Finland) beat Jason Nicolle (England) 15-9 15-3 15-5.

Chelsea dampen Arsenal's title hopes

Villa edge Derby to go five points clear

LONDON, March 17, (Reuters): A late goal from substitute Ian Ormondroyd put Aston Villa five points clear in the English Soccer League today as champions Arsenal ended a 16-match unbeaten home run with a 1-0 defeat by Chelsea.

Liverpool, in second place with a game in hand, travel to Manchester United for a televised game tomorrow.

Villa, with Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino making his club debut, struggled to break the deadlock at Derby until striker Ormondroyd, brought on at the start of the second half, hit the only goal of the match in the 71st minute.

For Villa, thrashed 4-0 in the FA Cup in midweek by Second Division Oldham, it was only their second win in five games.

Chelsea dampened third-placed Arsenal's title hopes with a 1-0 win against the run of play, midfielder John Barnes scoring in the 64th minute on his 300th appearance for the club.

Chelsea are now unbeaten in six matches and move into fourth place, 12 points off the pace and one behind Arsenal.

England striker Clive Allen was also celebrating, marking his return to struggling Manchester City after a two-month absence with a penalty goal in his team's 1-1 draw at Luton.

Four of the 18 First Division teams in action were reduced to

10 men on a sunny day matched by hot tempers.

Cascarino, signed from Millwall on Thursday for £1.5 million (\$2.4 million), was marked tightly by England defender Mark Wright and saw little action until the 27th minute when he nodded the ball down to striker David Platt, who shot just over the bar.

But at the stroke of half-time, only a world-class save from veteran England goalkeeper Peter Shilton prevented the Irishman from marking his Villa debut with a sensational goal.

Cascarino climbed high in the area to meet a cross from Platt and Shilton launched himself to his right to push away the powerful header from the foot of his goalpost.

Norwich's home game against relegation-threatened Millwall turned nasty with the visitors a goal ahead in the 61st minute.

Both teams were left with 10 men when Norwich striker Robert Fleck and Millwall's Steve Wood were sent off for fighting.

Results	
English Division One	
Arsenal	0 Chelsea 1
Charlton	1 Sheffield Wed 4
Derby	0 Aston Villa 1
Everton	4 Crystal Palace 0
Luton	1 Manchester C 1
Norwich	1 Millwall 1
QPR	3 Tottenham 3
Wimbledon	3 Southampton 3
Playing Sunday: Manchester United v	



Gary Cosby of Nottingham Forest takes a flying leap over Joe McLaughlin of Charlton. (Reuters wirephoto)

English Division Two	
Barnsley	1 Oldham 0
Bournemouth	0 Sunderland 1
Brighton	2 Bradford 1
Leeds	3 West Ham 2
Leicester	2 Port Vale 0
Middlesbrough	0 Blackburn 3
Newcastle	2 Ipswich 1
Portsmouth	2 Oxford 0
Sheffield U	3 Wolves 0
Sole	0 Plymouth 1
Swindon	1 Hull 3
West Bromwich	2 Watford 0

English Division Four	
Burnley	1 Maidstone 1
Colchester	1 Aldershot 0
Doncaster	1 Torquay 0
Exeter	2 Peterborough 0
Hereford	1 Stockport 2
Lincoln	1 Chesterfield 1
Rochdale	0 Grimsby 1
Scarborough	1 Southend 1
Scarbrough	0 Hartlepool 1
Wrexham	1 Carlisle 0
Played Friday:	
Cambridge	2 York 2
Gillingham	3 Halifax 1

Scottish Football Association (FA) Cup	
Aberdeen	4 Hearts 1
Clydebank	1 Stirling 0
Dundee U	1 Hibernian 0
Dunfermline	0 Celtic 0
Semifinals (to be played on April 14)	
Dundee United v Aberdeen	
Dunfermline or Celtic v Clydebank or Stirling	

Scottish Premier Division	
St Mirren	0 Rangers 0
Scottish Division One	
Clyde	1 Raith 0
Falkirk	2 Partick 0
Hamilton	2 Ayr 1
Meadowbank	0 Forfar 3
Morton	3 Albion 0
St Johnston	6 Alloa 0
Postponed: Airdrieonians v Clydebank	
Arbroath	3 Montrose 0
Brechin	3 Dunfermline 0
East Fife	1 E Stirling 1
Queen's Park	0 Cowdenbeath 2
Stenhousemuir	2 Kilmarnock 1
Stranraer	3 Queen's S 0
Postponed: Stirling v Arbroath	

Standings	
English and Scottish League soccer tables after matches today (tablets under — played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):	
English Division One	
Aston Villa	29 18 4 7 46 26 38
Liverpool	27 15 8 4 51 26 53
Arsenal	29 14 5 10 42 29 47
Chelsea	30 12 10 8 46 41 46

Scottish Premier Division	
Rangers	29 16 9 4 49 16 41
Aberdeen	29 13 8 8 37 30 34
Hearts	29 13 8 8 48 32 34
Celtic	29 10 11 8 34 25 31
Dundee U	29 9 10 10 32 29
Maribor	29 9 10 10 37 28
Hibernian	29 10 8 11 29 25 28
Dunfermline	29 9 6 14 31 43 24
St Mirren	29 8 7 14 22 63 23
Dundee	29 4 10 15 34 57 18

Baseball lockout: story of greed

NEW YORK, March 17, (Reuters): It is a story of power and revenge. Greed and the national pastime. The stuff of best-sellers.

But this real-life saga, the great American baseball lockout, does not have the public hanging on every twist and turn. In fact, it has produced nothing much beyond disgust.

The haggling may soon be over, as owners and players yesterday returned to the bargaining table on day 30 of the spring training lockout in a last ditch try to start the baseball season on time.

However it ends, this players-owners scuffle has given the game a black eye in a time of unparalleled plenty for both sides.

The owners recently signed a network television deal that will bring them \$1.1 billion over four years. That is in addition to a national cable television contract and local broadcast deals that individual clubs negotiate.

The New York Yankees, for instance, signed their own television broadcast deal worth half a billion over 11 years.

Players are also making more than ever. This winter the salary ceiling was raised through the three-million-dollar per year

barrier — for eight different players.

The average season's pay per player on each 24-man team is \$652,000.

Yet the spring training ballparks of Florida and Arizona are empty and big League parks around the country may soon be home to nothing more than a ghostly calm.

There are no good guys in this struggle. The sentiment of fans seems to be "a plague o' both your houses."

The economies of Florida and Arizona, where teams travel to play and train their way into shape every spring, stand to lose \$300 million and \$50 million, respectively, over baseball's no-show.

Vendors, parking attendants and ticket takers are without jobs. Restaurants and motels are empty. Hard-working fans have had to swallow lost vacations, planned a year ago, bereft of baseball in the played atmosphere of sunny spring training.

Angry fans in Kansas City are organising a national protest, distributing tee-shirts, bumper stickers and protest songs. Callers to New York's all-sports radio station have called for boycotts of baseball games.

And what has the lockout been about?

The owners, fearful of a player strike in midseason, installed the lockout. Radical proposals have long been dropped leaving what appears to be a minor matter of salary arbitration rules.

In 1985, the owners told the players that some clubs were in dire straits and that concessions had to be made for the health of the game. The players agreed to increase the number of years a player had to put in before becoming eligible for arbitration from two years to three.

Arbitration, wherein an arbiter accepts either a player's bid for his seasons' pay or the owner's offer of what the player is worth, steps up players' salaries in the years before they qualify as free agents and can negotiate their worth in the open market.

A player needs six years of service before he can become a free agent.

Now the players, citing the game's prosperity, want eligibility rolled back to two years. The owners, losers in so many contract tussles in the past, insist they won't give up the concession they won.

Fans keep Ali in mosque

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 17, (AP): Thousands of fans of Muhammad Ali crowded the entrance of the Istiglal Mosque yesterday and prevented the former boxing champion from leaving for an hour.

Ali, who arrived last Tuesday for a weeklong visit in Jakarta, was praying at Southeast Asia's largest mosque along with some 70,000 other Muslims.

In a brief address before the prayer, Ali said he was glad to have a chance to pray in the capital of the world's most populous Muslim country.

"We love you Ali," the worshippers chorused.

After the prayer, Ali was guided to the podium to lead an Islamic confession of creed.

Later, thousands of people, mostly youths, packed the main entrance, preventing Ali from getting out of the mosque.

Ali was also scheduled to be a guest at a combination music and boxing show tomorrow.



French national soccer team coach Michel Platini demonstrates the proper way to thread the ball through a wall of players in a free kick situation, during a special demonstration camp in Zeist, Netherlands, on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Prayers offered

Florence Griffith Joyner (right), US triple gold medalist in the Seoul Olympic Games, and her husband offer prayers for the atomic bomb victims at a cenotaph in the Hiroshima Memorial Park yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Scotland stun England for triple crown

EDINBURGH, March 17, (Reuters): Scotland turned on a vintage performance of fire and commitment today to upset England 13-7 and win the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship.

The Scots, three-to-one underdogs before the match, clinched not only the championship but also the Grand Slam and triple crown. In addition they regained the Calcutta Cup in the 105th encounter between rugby's oldest rivals.

Scotland, electing to play with the wind, rocked England from the opening whistle, driving the visitors deep into their own half.

New Zealand referee David Bishop penalised England three times in the first five minutes, giving Scots fly-half Craig Chalmers two chances at goal.

Chalmers converted the second of these, then three minutes later made a half break which put the Scots back on to the attack.

England prop Jeff Probyn was penalised for stamping and Chalmers calmly kicked another penalty from 22 metres.

The visitors at last fought their way into Scots territory and number eight Mike Teague made a bullocking run from the scrum.

The ball was swung wide at high speed along the England

backline through captain Will Carling to his fellow centre Jeremy Guscott.

Guscott threw a marvellous dummy and carried on to score in the corner.

England kept up the pressure and showed their confidence by running the ball from four kickable penalties but the only further score before the interval was a third Chalmers penalty.

The score which swung the match came two minutes into the second half.

Scots loose forward John Jeffrey wrestled the ball free, fed scrum-half Gary Armstrong who set full-back Gavin Hastings clear on the right.

Hastings lobbed a perfect centre kick and winger Tony Stanger, following through at top speed, grabbed the ball above his head to score.

England again rallied and full-back Simon Hodgkinson was given his first chance to kick for goal.

Hodgkinson narrowed the gap to six points but failed the two further attempts as it became increasingly clear that the gallant home side were going to hold on for one of their greatest victories.

Hastings's brother Scott, playing at centre, ankle-tapped Rory Underwood when the elusive England winger appeared to



Scottish players practicing before the match. (Reuters wirephoto)

have slipped the defence.

Then scrum-half Richard Hill was almost over in the 80th minute but the Scots defence again held firm.

"We were written off by

everybody. It's an amazing feeling," said Scottish captain David Sole as his team celebrated. "We knew we would be up against it, and would need to tackle and tackle. That's what we did."

GRAND EXHIBITION

Oriental carpets, handicrafts and household items

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